

Thatcher settles for June 9 poll

Parliament will be dissolved on Friday, May 13. Bills lost include the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill and the Telecommunications Bill.

Mrs Thatcher said she would not make personal attacks against Mr Foot but fight on the issues.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone has failed to secure the Brent, East, nomination but local Labour activists are set to defy the NEC.

The SDP-Liberal Alliance is to demand equal broadcasting time with the Tory and Labour parties during the campaign.

Labour's campaign committee has been called into emergency session, while Civil Service unions plan to highlight the dangers of voting Conservative.

Mr Foot said if Mrs Thatcher was returned to office she would inflict even more damage on the economy.

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The general election will be on June 9. Parliament will be dissolved next Friday, May 13, four years and nine days after it was elected, with the loss of several government Bills, including the contentious Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

STATE OF THE PARTIES

Party	Seats
Con	334
Lab	239
SDP	29
Liberal	13
SNP	6
Pl Cymru	5
Ulster Unionist	1
Ulster Dem Unst	3
United Ulster Unst	1
Anti Block	1
Socialist	1
Lab Ind	1
The Speaker	1
Vacant seats (Cardiff NW, Rhondda)	2
Total	635

Election pages 2, 5
Leading article 13

The Prime Minister said last night that the uncertainty was becoming intolerable and every-one was becoming obsessed with the election date. This was bad for Britain and bad for people who were thinking of whether they should invest.

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Opposition, observed in a statement from his Commons office that "our resolute Prime Minister" had been pushed, pulled and panicked even faster than expected.

"Here we are with a cut-and-run election a year before this Parliament needs to be dissolved. If the recovery is on the way, why the rush?"

Mr Foot said the Labour Party would fight on the long-term choices for the country: how to get genuine economic recovery, get back to full employment, help the poorest in the country whom the Conservatives had hit hardest, protect the social services already cut and threatened, and stop the nuclear arms race.

Mr Roy Jenkins, leader of the Social Democrats and aspirant leader of a Liberal and SDP Alliance government, welcomed the election, agreeing with the Prime Minister that it was high time the uncertainty was over. The Alliance was "going in with victory as our aim".

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, who is to be chairman of the Alliance campaign committee, said on Independent Television News that he was very confident. He acknowledged that the Conservatives started as favourites, but the debt side, including the chronic unemployment suffered as the price for having no incomes policy, was far greater than the credit for the squeezing out of inflation.

Confirmation that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had bowed to the overwhelming weight of advice from her closest advisers came in a statement from 10 Downing Street at 2.15 pm. Mrs Thatcher said that she had taken a provisional decision on Sunday night after her day of consultations with ministers and party officers at Chequers.

She slept on that decision "as it is always wise to do", then yesterday morning put her doubts aside and summoned as many of her Cabinet as could be assembled by 11.15 am. Mr Francis Pym, Mr James Prior, Mr Peter Walker and Mr George Younger were notified by telephone. By 12.20 pm the Queen's first minister was on her way to the Palace to ask for a dissolution.

The new Parliament is to be summoned on June 15, for the swearing-in of members and the election of a Speaker. The present Speaker, Mr George Thomas, is not seeking reelection. The State Opening will be on June 22.

At Westminster yesterday there was excitement among MPs, and smiles of relief on faces of some older members whose retirement was suddenly imminent. But there was no surprise. Mrs Thatcher's judgment that she now has as good a chance of winning as she would ever have is endorsed by almost all her supporters and opponents.

The choice of June 9 has put in doubt her planned visit to the United States at the end of May for talks in Washington with

Continued on page 2, col 4



Looking to the country: Mrs Thatcher; looking to the skies: Mr Heseltine (Photographs: Suresh Karadia and Chris Harris).

Pledge to avoid personal attacks

By Anthony Bevis
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister said last night that she would fight her campaign on the issues and would avoid making any personal attacks on Mr Foot, the Labour leader.

Mrs Thatcher said in an interview on BBC Radio: "I expect unemployment will be a very, very important issue". But she added: "I have never known any election stick to one issue. They always range over the whole spectrum of political matters."

Asked whether she would be following the example of Mr Cecil Parkinson, her party chairman, who had said that one of the Tories' advantages was Mr Foot, Mrs Thatcher replied: "I have never, as you know, in my life, had personal attacks. I have always tried to stick to issues: always, always, always."

"We always put, very much, our positive case. Certainly, I will try to show up the shortcomings of Labour Party policy."

The Prime Minister also dealt with the Labour accusation that by calling an early election she had cut and run. "If I had been going to cut and run, I would have done it a very, very long time ago," she said.

"But you know, you are bound to be accused of something. If you go between 4 and 5 years, you are cutting and running. If you don't decide, you are dithering. If you continue to go the whole year, you are clinging to office."

"So I wouldn't take much notice of any accusations. They are bound to make some."

The Times and the election

The most comprehensive news coverage and the best informed analysis of the election will appear in *The Times*.

Political Editor Julian Haviland and the Westminster staff will provide authoritative coverage of the campaign.

Specialist writers will go behind the party slogans to explain the significant issues in the campaign.

Reporters throughout the country will look at the key constituencies in which the election will be won and lost.

Frank Johnson will bring his unique style to the campaign and Geoffrey Smith will provide a regular analysis of how the election is developing.

David Watts will put it all in perspective every week and guest columnists will provide the viewpoint of the three main parties.

A special Times panel in a vital constituency will provide regular soundings of the issues that are moving the voters.

Soviet families leave Beirut

More than 140 wives and children of Soviet diplomats in Beirut have been put on a special flight to Moscow. A few hours earlier, sectarian fighting resumed in the Chouf foothills two miles from the capital. The Russians' departure has provoked rumours of a new military threat to Lebanon.

Back page

North Sea divers end sit-in

Divers on a North Sea oil platform ended their week-long sit-in rather than act against a court order telling them to leave the rig. The sit-in by 27 divers had threatened to spread

Page 2

TV listing ban

Time Out, the weekly magazine, was banned permanently by a High Court judge from publishing advance television schedules and will have to pay an estimated £150,000 costs to the BBC and Independent Television Publications. Page 3

Law Report, page 24

Plea on pill

The Family Planning Association recommended that doctors prescribe the "morning after" contraceptive pill to all women needing it, thus reducing abortion and unplanned pregnancies. Page 3

Leading article, page 13

Envoy expelled

The United States told an Afghan diplomat to leave the country within 48 hours in retaliation for the expulsion at the weekend of a diplomat at the American Embassy in Kabul.

Nicaragua 'war'

Señor Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, told the UN Security Council that recent American actions and pronouncements on Nicaragua could be seen as constituting a declaration of war. Page 6

US hopes

Dr Henry Kissinger talks exclusively to David Miller about the United States application to stage football's 1986 World Cup. Dr Kissinger heads the US delegation to Stockholm where the application is to be considered. Page 22

Computer Horizons: Introducing a new jobs column; a new personality; a look at two giants - and a micro love story. Pages 19-21

Leader page, 13

Letters: On nuclear arms, from Mr A. Verrier, Third World; from Professors Lord Bauer and Basil Yamey, Tasmania dam; from Professor D. Bellamy.

Leading articles: The election; President Mitterrand: the post-coital pill.

Features, pages 10-12

ND's illegal pressure: Security versus freedom to report: Why yeden must meet the challenge. Spectrum: The Beating of K. Keronac. Fashion: Spatiti style and Feet First.

Ituary, page 14

i. Winding, Mr William tooker, Mr Anthony Beamish.

Home News	2-5	Diary	12
Jobs	6-7	Law Report	24
Upstairs	14	Parliament	24
Arts	8	Science	14
Bridge	14	Room	14
Business	15-18	Sport	22-24
Church	14	TV & Radio	27
Court	14	Universities	14
Crossword	28	Weather	28

Labour leaders in emergency session

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Labour's campaign committee, comprising top-level political and trade union leaders, has been called into emergency session this morning to chart the course of the party's general election battle.

Attending the gathering, in the Commons office of Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, for the first time will be Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing president of the National Union of Mineworkers. He told *The Times* last night: "We shall be examining all the options, to see what more we can do to ensure a massive Labour victory. Anything we can do or I can do will be done."

This sudden rush of unanimity to the head of the Labour Party, anticipated at the weekend Woodstock conference, will be followed by a meeting of Trade Unions for Labour Victory (Tulv) tomorrow to complete plans to raise nearly £2m for party election funds.

The unions go into the poll with private reservations about Labour's chances of winning but a strong public front of confidence.

Mr David Bannett, chairman of Tulv said last night: "Mrs Thatcher has finally ended her dithering. She has been hassled into calling a premature election against her better judgment. So much for the resolute approach. So much for the national interest."

"But those who are panicking in the Tory Party have got it wrong. The timing of this election finds the Labour Party better prepared, in better heart and more unified than we have

been for years", he said. The weekend conference of politicians and union leaders had put Labour in "top gear" for an election. "We have the organization, we have the policies and we have now the finance to conduct an effective campaign."

Mr Michael Foot said last night that if the electorate returned Mrs Thatcher to office she would inflict even greater damage on the economy. He said in a election statement that people would not have voted Conservative at the last election if they had known that it would mean more than 3,500,000 unemployed, an increase in taxation, a waste of precious North Sea oil resources, record bankruptcies and the biggest-ever fall in industrial production.

"If we give them another chance it will be even worse. In the hectic weeks of this election, they hope to hide their real plans for the health service, the economy and our future," the Labour leader said.

Mr Peter Shore, the Shadow Chancellor, said in a London speech that the Prime Minister had performed one of the most astonishing and public somersaults in British political history, in calling the snap election, because "the appalling truth about the economy and its prospects" kept breaking out.

But for David Owen, the Social Democrats' deputy parliamentary leader, in another London speech, condemned the Labour Party as unfit to govern. He said: "Split from stem to stern over defence, they are now firmly unilateralist. Every candidate in every constituency will be fighting on a programme of renegeing on the NATO defence spending target, which was undertaken by the last Labour Government. If that is not bad enough, they wish to throw over every single United States serviceman."

"No doubt there will be weasel words to paper over the cracks, to allow the Healeys, the Hattersleys and the Shores some saving grace, but how can it be that men who have once held responsible office can now campaign on such a shameful programme?"

Bookmakers were divided over the election odds last night. Ladbrokes put the odds on Labour at 20-1, and Conservatives well ahead in the overall majority betting. Odds for Tory majority of more than 97 were 28-1; for a similar Labour win they offered 4,000-1.

Some City sources also suggested that there were still worries about the economy, despite recent forecasts of recovery. They said that today's April money supply figures are expected to show a sharp rise in the rate of increase. The stronger pound could also hinder exports.

If the Conservatives are returned to office, these trends could prompt them to tighten policy to choke off a possible acceleration of inflation, analysts say. Measures to correct the economy's course is possible in the autumn.

No second chance for Tories, Foot says

By Anthony Bevis
Political Correspondent

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Heidemann accused over diaries

From Michael Binyon
Berlin

Herr Henri Nannen, chief editor of *STERN*, filed a lawsuit yesterday for fraud against Herr Gerd Heidemann, the magazine's 51-year-old reporter who he had discovered the forged Hitler diaries.

Herr Heidemann's whereabouts were unknown yesterday. Herr Peter Koch, who resigned as editor over the affair, said on Sunday that he had probably gone to South America.

Meanwhile, some 200 of *STERN*'s 210 journalists signed a statement begging forgiveness from German readers for the magazine's publication of the forged, and saying they were ashamed of what had happened.

In a statement Herr Nannen announced that a civil suit had



Herr Heidemann before the diaries were proved forgeries.

been taken out against Herr Heidemann, who had on at *STERN*'s Hamburg headquarters for intensive questioning at the

week end. Yesterday Herr Nannen said that Herr Heidemann had named as a source a man "who in all probability does not exist." He had refused to give the sources of his material on the grounds that other people's lives would be endangered, but this journalistic confidence, Herr Nannen said, was now no longer valid.

Herr Nannen suggested Herr Heidemann had knowingly deceived his employers. His statements on the affair contradicted those of his wife Gina to foreign publications. "Heidemann had correctly researched the crash of the Fuehrer's plane at Bormersdorf and then obviously fallen into the hands of swindlers and may well have ended up enriching himself," Herr Nannen said.

He denied all knowledge of a letter Herr Heidemann is

Continued on back page, col 1

TV-am challenges viewing figures

TV-am's weekend audience has slumped to its lowest level of 200,000, according to figures released yesterday.

The figures dropped as BBC increased its lead over its independent breakfast TV rival, with a total of 1.7m viewers.

The figures came from the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board (BARB) for the week ending May 1.

They are likely to be seen as another blow to TV-am, which is in the throes of a major reorganization in an attempt to woo back viewers.

But there was some comfort: viewing figures for the company's Saturday and Sunday programmes rose to 1.5m and 600,000 respectively.

Figures released last week showed BBC had a weekday audience of 1.6m, compared with TV-am's 300,000.

A survey suggested yesterday that total breakfast television

audiences may be considerably larger than the BARB figures show. Market Research Enterprise (MRE) say many people who watch breakfast programmes are not covered by the BARB figures.

The company which questioned 540 households, report that substantial numbers watch at the office or in hotels, not covered by BARB.

TV-am's chief executive, Mr Timothy Aitken, said the MRE report confirmed "the commonly held belief that BARB is not a credible means of measuring the breakfast audience."

He added: "We now have the financial stability to continue whatever hurdles are put in front of us - and as from May 23 our programme will start a 'new look'."

"We feel confident that, given time, the audience figures thereafter will improve."

Mitterrand seeks new Bretton Woods pact

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand used the presence in Paris yesterday of more than 50 foreign finance and trade ministers of member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to call for a new "Bretton Woods" conference to set up a new international monetary system. The call took many observers by surprise.

France has been among the leading critics of the existing system with its wide and often unpredictable fluctuations of currencies on foreign exchange markets, and has long been pressing the United States in particular to intervene more to help to stabilize the value of the dollar against other leading currencies.

The move had been foreshadowed by M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, on a recent trip to South-east Asia, but had been largely discounted by observers who had not considered the time was yet ripe for such a conference. The Third World nations of the non-aligned movement have already called for a new conference like that at Bretton Woods.

In an address at the Elysee Palace to ministers of the 24 OECD countries, who are meeting in Paris, M. Mitterrand called for "an international monetary conference at the highest level within the framework of the International Monetary Fund".

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Nurse jailed for life after jealous killing of lover's wife and sons

A hospital nurse who killed three members of her lover's family in a "wicked" act of jealousy, was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Lydia Galladani, aged 25, from the Philippines, was found guilty after a four-day trial of the murder of Mrs Bella Pineda, aged 33, a bank clerk, and the manslaughter of her sons, Michael, aged two weeks, and Kelly, aged two.

Galladani, of Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, west London, who worked at the Cromwell Hospital, was in tears as she stood flanked by two prison officers. She told the court: "I am sincerely sorry for the harm I have caused and I deeply regret the shame I have brought my parents and my vocation."

Judge David Tudor Price, the Common Sergeant, said he believed she was intensely remorseful for killing the children, but the three deaths were brought about through jealousy and were "wicked".

"I believe the deaths of the children will hang very heavily on your conscience," he added. Mr William Howard, QC, for the prosecution said that Galladani began an affair last spring with Mr Augusto Pineda, aged 34, a barman, and hoped that he would leave his wife and marry her.

But when the family moved



Lydia Galladani three days before the deaths.

to a new house in College Gardens, Tooting, south London, Galladani saw her chances of being anything other than a "mistress" slipping away.

On September 6 last she left her flat at 7 am and travelled by Tube to the house, where she attacked Mrs Pineda, stabbing her 27 times and then starting a fire beside the body, which suffocated the two children as they slept.

Galladani was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Mrs Pineda and given concurrent five-year terms for the manslaughter.

Galladani, of Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, came to England 10 years ago. She worked at several London hospitals and in 1980 went to

Saudi Arabia to work at a military hospital.

She confessed that she had had several lovers before her affair with Mr Pineda began and although she tried to end the relationship she could not bring herself to do so. Mrs Pineda who was expecting her second child found out about it in May.

On September 3, Galladani and Mr Pineda had a day out and she suspected that it was their last meeting. Three days later she arrived at College Gardens, and watched Mr Pineda go off to work.

With a knife in her shoulder bag, she pretended to be wedding plants in the front garden of the Pineda's house while builders, working nearby, were in the street. During their tea break she slipped the catch on the front room window and climbed in.

Within minutes Mrs Pineda lay dead from 27 stab wounds to the face, back and chest. She was attacked in her upstairs bedroom as her two sons lay sleeping in the same room.

As Galladani washed her hands and cleaned the knife the baby began crying and she gave him a bottle to keep him quiet.

After putting one of the dead woman's dresses beside the body, Galladani struck a match and dropped it. She left the room, closing the door, and returned home to start work.



Laboratory will identify lethal replica firearms

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Real and replica guns (above) at the £4m forensic science laboratory at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, to be opened by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, on Friday.

Mr Peter Prescott, principal scientific officer, is holding a Czech Skorpion pistol in his right hand. An M16 assault rifle is in the foreground

(left). The other two guns are Japanese replicas.

The Firearms Act, 1982, will restrict the sale of replica firearms capable of being converted for lethal use. Tests at the laboratory suggest that an astonishing variety of models that may be bought by children are potentially lethal.

The laboratory will test whether imitation guns that go on sale can be converted and fired. It examines firearms for all police forces in England and Wales except the Metropolitan, in London.

Its scientists have converted successfully imitations of a Colt revolver and a wartime German machine-gun. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

'Coronation Street' actor for trial

Peter Adamson, the television actor in *Coronation Street*, yesterday elected a Crown Court trial on two charges of indecently assaulting eight-year-old girls.

Mr Adamson, aged 53, of Walmersley Old Road, Bury, Greater Manchester, who plays Len Fairclough in the series, appeared before Rossendale magistrates at Rawtenstall, Lancashire, and was remanded on bail for five weeks. He made no plea.

The charges against him are that at Haslingden, Lancashire, on April 16 he indecently assaulted a girl aged eight years, and that on April 23 he indecently assaulted another girl aged eight.

Mr Adamson told the court he elected to go to the Crown Court on the two charges, and had his unconditional bail extended to June 13. Mr David Tennant, the chairman of the bench made an order banning the publication of any information leading to the identification of the two girls.

Repair bill deal over embassies

Britain and Iran are near an agreement over the repair bill, estimated at £1m for the Iranian Embassy building in London, which was damaged by bombs and fire on the Special Air Services Regiment (SAS) raid that ended the six-day siege just over three years ago.

The Foreign Office is understood to have agreed to pay for the repairs if Iran will find about £500,000 for damage to the British Embassy in Tehran.

The Iranians have also been presented by Westminster council with an £87,500 bill for scaffolding erected after the building was declared dangerous.

The embassy, part of an elegant mid-Victorian terrace, has remained a charred shell since May 5, 1980, when the SAS stormed it to rescue 19 hostages, killing four of the six terrorists.

Headless corpse murder charges

Three unemployed men were remanded in custody yesterday charged with murdering Stephen Gaspard, aged 17, whose headless and handless body was found on waste ground last month.

David Estaphane, aged 20, his brother Andrew, aged 21, both of Duckett Street, Stepney, east London, and Juma Amani, of no fixed address, were remanded for a week at Thames Magistrates' Court in east London.

Banks cut back hard on home loans

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Home buyers face increasing difficulties in obtaining mortgages as leading banks further restrict the supply of loans. Barclays bank has a five month waiting list for mortgages in some areas, since the amount of money it is prepared to lend has been cut by almost half.

So far only the Royal Bank of Scotland and its subsidiary Williams & Glyn's has pulled out of the home loans market completely. Nearly all the other large banks have substantially reduced the money they are making available for mortgages.

At the Midland a spokesman said that lending is now at a fifth of what it was during the peak months last year, when the bank was granting mortgages at the rate of between £50 and £70m a month. Lloyds also has reduced the amount it is prepared to lend by a half, and this year customers will be fighting for a share of the £500m the bank allocated for home loans.

Only one bank, the National Westminster, is continuing to maintain mortgage lending at between £90m and £100m a month. A spokesman commented that NatWest has no

plans in the immediate future to restrict home loans.

Barclays, with 90,000 borrowers, said that it decided to restrict mortgage loans last July but that it is only since the beginning of this year that the brakes have really been applied.

With the exception of NatWest all the banks are discouraging potential borrowers by applying a series of restrictions. In all cases banks now will lend only 80 per cent of valuation compared with, in the case of Lloyds, 100 per cent a year ago.

Three years ago the banks were prepared to grant loans to anyone who applied. Today applications are restricted to customers of at least six months' standing.

The main banks entered the home loans market with enthusiasm in 1980 and within a short time had captured 30 per cent of the new mortgage market. But at the time interest rates were high.

Now, interest rates at between 10 and 10½ per cent, the banks are saying home loans are less profitable because they can lend to industry at higher rates.

Cardinal thanked by Kent

By Nicholas Timmins

Mgr Bruce Kent, the general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, thanked Cardinal Basil Hume yesterday for the tolerance "which he has shown and continues to show" in allowing him to work for CND.

In his first direct statement on Cardinal Hume's recent letter in which he gave Mgr Kent continued permission to work for CND, but said he had "serious misgivings" if CND's activities became more political, Mgr Kent said it was the cardinal's "characteristic kindness and generosity" which made it possible for him to work full time for CND three years ago.

"He has recently made it clear that this permission is not without qualification. I quite understand this. There is a theological debate alive in the church today about the role of the priest in politics, even when those politics are of a non-party political nature."

Mgr Kent's remarks were made at a meeting attended by the cardinal at Archbishop's House in London.

Cannabis charge remand

Christopher Whitehouse, aged 36, of Four Houses, Baldwins Gate, Bletley, Staffordshire, was remanded on unconditional bail until June 6 at Newcastle-under-Lyme, North Staffordshire, yesterday to await committal to the Crown Court on drugs charges.

Court to settle custody of dead mother's baby

From Our Correspondent, Bradford

A judge will be asked to decide the future of Michael Brooke, who was born while his mother was kept alive on a life support machine. The twelve-day-old child's father and grandmother are both seeking custody.

The boy was born at Leeds General Infirmary 24 hours before his mother, Miss Beverley Brooke, aged 19, died from a brain disease. He is being cared for by Mrs Noeline Colley, Miss Brooke's mother at her home in Pilgrim Crescent, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

But Mr Frank Brennan, aged 28, the boy's father, wants him to stay at his home in Beckett Walk, near by.

Miss Helen Kay, Mr Brennan's solicitor, said: "Court proceedings will begin in the next few days. There will be a hearing, probably at Dewsbury County Court, on the custody of the child. The fact that Mr Brennan is the baby's father is not contested."

Miss Kay declined to comment on whether Mr Gordon

'Suicide' booklet to continue

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Voluntary Euthanasia Society will continue to distribute its suicide booklet after a recent High Court ruling that it is not illegal in all circumstances to do so. But those applying for a *Guide to Self-Destruction*, will now have to give an undertaking that they have no present intention of taking their lives, or are contemplating doing so in the foreseeable future.

In a statement yesterday the society's executive committee noted the comments of Mr Justice Woolf, in the case brought by the Attorney General, that the booklet "provides as satisfactory treatment as it would be possible to devise".

He had also said it might in some cases deter people from committing suicide.

"Nevertheless it seems from the judgment that the Voluntary Euthanasia staff and committee could be vulnerable to criminal prosecution if there were evidence in a particular case that they knew that a purchaser was in fact contemplating suicide," the society said.

"Ironically, there would seem to be less risk if a bookseller than the society's responsible concern to limit distribution to recipients over the age of 25. They must also be members of three months' standing. But the society existed to promote reform of the law and not to flout it, it said."

The number of deaths said to be linked with the booklet was forty at most, and probably nearer twenty, it added.

Man accused of child's murder

A man was charged with the murder of Denise Bradbury, aged two, before Birmingham magistrates yesterday. Robert Albert Astley, aged 23, a polisher, of Finchley Road, Kingsstanding, Birmingham, was remanded in custody for a week.

Mr Justice Whitford advised *Time Out* and the television companies to agree on the scope of the magazine's critical guide. Under a provisional agreement pending the outcome of the dispute the magazine can publish 15 BBC selections a week and 14 each from independent television and Channel 4.

In judgment Mr Justice Whitford ruled that the daily programme schedules on which information in *Radio*

"written compilations" protected under the Copyright Act.

The selections were similarly protected because they relied on a "substantial part" of the compilations.

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No cut in benefits, Rossi says

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security, yesterday emphatically denied that the Government is considering cutting child benefits to pay for a new disability allowance.

His remarks on the BBC radio programme, *The World at One*, were greeted with relief at the denial that selectivity might be introduced into child benefit. But there was also disappointment that he did not confirm that there might be a new prospect of a comprehensive allowance for disabled people.

Reports yesterday suggested that the Government had asked civil servants to prepare papers on a new disability allowance costing up to £3,000m a year, as part of a review of the social security budget. The reports said that such an allowance would be paid for by making child benefits subject to a means test.

But Mr Rossi ridiculed the suggestion and implied that the idea had been promoted, by an official of the Labour Party in Scotland. He said that the Government, which had announced a big increase in child benefit to take effect in November, had also increased benefits for people with disabilities by 21 per cent in real terms.

"It is true that we have a real concern for the disabled. They are the most economically disadvantaged; they cannot earn for themselves and life is far more expensive for them," he said.

But any hope of improving cash benefits for them depended on the country earning more money. That would enable the Government to help those "who really need the help".

Asked if there might be a change to the present system where child benefits are paid free of tax and irrespective of income for every child, Mr Rossi said that the Conservatives had supported the substitution of cash benefits for the former child tax allowances. As far as he was aware, there had been no discussions to return to the old system.

Child benefits were introduced gradually over a period of three years starting in 1976.

Firm fined after explosion

A Salford haulage company was fined £500 yesterday for storing chemicals which exploded last September, causing damage worth £1m. But Mr Cecil Latham, the Salford Stipendiary Magistrate, agreed that the owners of B & R Hauliers should escape a maximum £1,000 fine because they had not deliberately flouted safety regulations.

Earlier Mr Malcolm Wright, prosecuting on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive, conceded that the company had been "poorly advised".

The explosion occurred when a fire ignited nearly 30 tonnes of Sodium Chlorate. Sixty local people were taken to hospital suffering from cuts, nausea, shock and the effects of smoke.

Mr Wright said the company had contravened the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act by storing sodium chlorate in drums on wooden pallets.

Instead it should have been well isolated from ignition sources and inside fire resistant premises.

Mr Anthony Hammond, for the company, said that although his clients admitted the charge they were not aware of any specific safety regulations regarding sodium chlorate and had not deliberately stored it in a dangerous manner.

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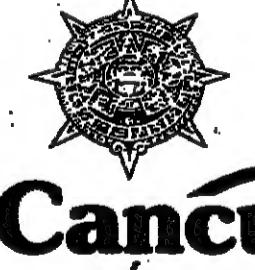
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Lukewarm backing for EEC aid plan

THIRD WORLD

The Government had reservations about a proposal by the European Commission for a special programme amounting to around £31m to combat hunger in the world and until they had been resolved it would have difficulty in supporting the plan, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said in opening debate in the Commons on the special programme.

He moved that the House note the European Community document containing the Commission proposal for a Council regulation on the implementation of the special programme to combat hunger in the world, and welcomed the Government's efforts to secure improvements to the proposal.

The Council of Ministers had yet to discuss the proposals in the document, he said, but it was expected to be on the agenda for the next Development Council meeting on June 9.

The essential purpose of the proposal was that the legal basis necessary to administer the equivalent of £31m in the Community's budget for 1983 to finance the special programme.

The amount of money involved was comparatively small in terms of the total aid provision of around £500m in 1983. It would enable the Community to grant aid to support national food strategies and structure measures to protect natural resources and improve their utilization, together with training in these fields.

The protection proposals would pave the way for general interest such as afforestation and control and development of village water supplies. The least developed countries would have a priority claim to aid to improve the food position.

On that basis it would appear there were many parts of the proposal that the Government could endorse, but the Government's view was that the title of the regulation was misleading.

That was because it suggested a more comprehensive and closer working scheme than was in fact envisaged.

As a result the Government had reservations about aspects of the proposals which would require revision before the Government could give its support.

The first difficulty was in seeing how the rather general measures envisaged would add significantly or effectively to the Community's existing efforts to alleviate world hunger to which the Government attached more importance.

The proposals duplicated in a rather less satisfactory way parts of the aid facilities already available to the Community.

Many of the proposals would require considerable refinement and clarification to ensure the aid resources were concentrated effectively on those countries and programmes most in need.

The proposals illustrated one of the difficulties which arose when a sum of money was made available and then there followed attempts to define the policies on which it should be spent.

It had been part of the United Kingdom policy to see there was a proper balance geographically and that the interests of the poorer developed countries of Asia were treated equitably.

The Government could not agree that countries which were already well favoured under existing arrangements should benefit from additional appropriation from the budget.

Before giving support therefore the Government would like to see a new item directed towards the non-associated developing countries. These countries did not at present derive so much benefit from the European Community.

Mr Guy Barnett, an Opposition spokesman on European and community affairs (Greenwich, Lab), said he was grateful for the minister's clear explanation of the Government's attitude to these proposals.

There could be no doubt in anybody's mind about the importance of the subject of these proposals: the implementation of a special programme to combat hunger in the world. Its rather grandiose title was hardly measured up to by the proposal as it appeared before the House, because they were talking about a mere £31m to combat hunger in the world and anyone who had any knowledge of the situation in the world must be aware of the inadequacy of sums of that kind.

Poverty in the third world remained a vast problem and it was continually deteriorating. The rate of pauperization was increasing despite all the fine rhetoric attached to any aid programme. What was needed more than anything else was a coherent programme to deal with the problem.

The proposal they were now considering would, if anything, make the situation administratively worse rather than better. Anybody who visited a third world country would find that the recipient government was very often overwhelmed by the variety of offers made in this direction, by the variety of aid donors with a variety of proposals they wished to make in order to assist them and the administrative burden placed on these governments was a considerable charge upon them.

Therefore he looked with suspicion at proposals which lay outside the bilateral programmes of the countries of the EEC and even outside the framework of the European Development Fund.

These proposals, for the reasons the minister had explained, were open to severe criticism.

First, the sum of money talked about was quite inadequate even to cope with the problems of a relatively small number of countries. Secondly, some of the most severe problems of hunger occurred in the non-associated countries rather than those who were members of the Lomé agreement.

Not only was food aid very often highly damaging, but also the indiscriminate dumping of food surpluses on the world markets could result in the consequences opposite to the purposes which were supposed to be served by the proposal before the House. For instance, something in the nature of a food war was going on between the United States and the EEC, a food war which could only have the most damaging consequences for the third world.

One of the most serious criticisms of food aid was not merely that it could be damaging in some respects to the markets of those who were trying to obtain proper reward for their products but also, for instance, could introduce a liking for wheat rather than maize which was expensive to produce in third world countries.

Or it could introduce a liking for rice rather than maize which may be difficult, if not impossible, to produce in the country concerned. This was not to deny that food aid had its value and use and he very much hoped that a good deal more thought would be given to the whole issue of food aid because it had a role in development but often they had had to learn by bitter experience that the consequences of ill thought out programmes of the distribution of food aid.

So far as possible there ought to be the maximum degree of coordination between donor countries in third world countries. Any attempt to coordinate in a more sensible direction should be welcome, but this did not seem to be the likely consequence of the proposal being debated.

He was glad the minister had made the speech he had, and the nature of his reservations, and he very much hoped that as a result of the discussion the House would be expressed on both sides of the House the proposal would be reconsidered and some of the objections that had been raised on both sides would also be kind of regulation that eventually emerged.

Mr Percy Griere (Solihull, C) said this might be the last speech he made in the House of Commons, following the Prime Minister's announcement. The mere export of food was far from being enough. The people of third world countries had to be helped with expertise, with technology, with agriculture, with advice on which crops were suitable.

He shared the reservations expressed by the minister with regard to the Commission's proposals, because it was plain that these proposals concentrated too much on the export of food and not on the much more constructive ways in which it was possible to help the third world.

He hoped Britain would bring constructive criticism to bear on the proposals and that the implementation of a special programme to combat hunger in the world, its rather grandiose title was hardly measured up to by the proposal as it appeared before the House, because they were talking about a mere £31m to combat hunger in the world and anyone who had any knowledge of the situation in the world must be aware of the inadequacy of sums of that kind.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Stockport North, Lab) said he regretted the Government had not announced more money for aid. All this initiative really amounted to was that the EEC was saying it wanted to decide how some of the British money was going to be spent.

Although he regretted the

Government did not spend more on overseas aid, the money had overall been well spent, fairly well thought out and targeted on the right areas.

The British seemed to have far more expertise and efficiency in this area than would appear to come from the programme put forward in the directive. Britain should resist the intention of anyone else to spend its money. It should keep control over its own programme, which ideally should be increased.

Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stevenage, C) said it was fruitless for the EEC to take away the control of national countries over their own aid budgets, particularly Britain's. What should have been done was to coordinate national programmes of aid as put forward by component parts of the EEC, to make certain, for example, that the projects adopted by a developing country and the projects which it accepted from donor countries did not compete with each other, and added to the sum wealth and possibility of development of that particular country.

Competing aid organizations had resulted in the efforts of one country being offset by the efforts of another and so the economic development and hunger got worse.

It was unfortunate that the document aimed purely at food aid. Famine relief was not aimed at generating food production in the third world and should help by reducing its own surplus production of products such as sugar, which was in world over-supply and was produced in the developed world.

All the EEC had done was to increase its own production and reduce market prices, making it impossible for many countries overseas to help themselves by growing and selling sugar at a price at least above their cost of production. The £31m in the document was laughable. It was replacing billions of pounds with a mere gesture. Why had the EEC even put this forward?

Beneficial and sympathetic trade policies would assist the developing world far more than giving money indiscriminately in the form of aid to many of these countries. For aid as such was very suspect. It needed special techniques and attention as had happened with the World Bank programme in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. It was as a result of a programme that India would eventually become not just self-sufficient in rice, but an exporter to needy countries. That was the sort of example to follow.

The crassness of the EEC proposal was that it was trying to produce another element of additional assistance to the developing countries to that which already existed within the Community. The Government should refuse to have anything to do with it until the European Community had put its own house in order.

To produce such proposals without any consultation with the potential recipients was ill considered and insensitive. They should have been asked for ideas as to how Europe could provide the best framework of which they could take advantage. As far as he was aware no such effort at consultation had been made.

There should be consultations too with all other agencies, so as to produce a coordinated and comprehensive system of aid.

Mr Clinton Davies, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Hackney, Central, Lab), said the aid of food should be able to develop countries to create additional ways of producing their own food because that would at least mitigate any corrupting influence there might be at work as well as being the most beneficial way in which third world countries could develop their own particular requirements.

That could not be done unless there was the maximum consultation and coordination with the people who had the expertise on the ground in the areas concerned.

The Government should not adopt an ideological stance. Nicaragua was not beyond the pale. There were other countries like it that needed technological help. The Government should not turn aside the pleas of Oxfam, Christian Aid and other independent agencies who had representatives working hand in hand with the Government in the field in the service of a very poor and deprived peasant people.

Sir John Begg-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said he agreed that stagnation should not be treated ideologically. What he countered in the development of the third world where there was scarcity, hunger and starvation was what had happened in the Soviet empire. For ideological reasons efficient food

producers had in many cases been expropriated or liquidated.

Mr Peter Griffiths (Portsmouth North, C) said in the next few weeks he expected there would be much sound and fury and so much on which to disagree, but perhaps on this issue Mr Griffiths agreed that the long run that responding to emergencies was the way in which the West could help countries to cultivate their harsh and desert regions so that they could be cushioned against some of the worst effects of natural disasters that took place and could be given greater prospects of survival and an improved standard of living.

Although it was important to respond to emergencies when they arose, it was important to prevent such emergencies from arising.

The western world and the developing countries should find ways in which they could reach a greater understanding and a greater sense of cooperation particularly on agricultural production. If some concrete understandings could be reached at the Williamsburg conference that could be of great benefit to the developing as well as the developed countries.

There was a case for thinking in terms of a Community group of experts and advisers who could more readily be encouraged to go to developing countries to assist them on particularly important issues such as agricultural production.

Mr Reginald Prestidge (Dorset, C) said he agreed with the minister that while it helped to do more in terms of helping with the problems of the hungry countries of the world, the latest ideas to come from the Community were not necessarily the most helpful way to approach the problem. There was too much machinery already.

What was needed was an increase in resources available to the institutions and an improvement in their efficiency and cost-effectiveness, not new institutions.

The motion was agreed to.



Mr Cecil Parkinson, Conservative Party Chairman (left), leaving No 10 Downing Street after being told of the election date, and Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, who went to the Commons to answer questions.

Rapid developments in North Sea predicted

ENERGY

The Government estimated that new developments in the North Sea over the next two years were likely to come forward at the rate of one every six weeks, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, said during questions in the Commons.

He told Mr Michael Morris (Northampton South, C), who had asked whether, following the Chancellor's announcement of changes in the North Sea tax regime, he had evidence of increasing interest in marginal fields. There has been a uniformly positive response from the industry and I am confident they will now be pressing ahead with plans for a number of new developments as a direct consequence of the new relief for future fields.

Mr Morris: That is very good news to British industry. In relation to the southern basin, the possible of the Oil and Gas Enterprise Act does open up new opportunities, but at the moment there is a question mark over developing gas-related dimension, clarification of this point would be of great benefit.

Mr Lawson: There is already a result to a large extent of the passage of the Oil and Gas Enterprise Act a greatly renewed interest in the southern basin. For example, there were 17 new exploration and appraisal wells drilled last year - more than in the previous seven years put together.

There is already considerable interest in the eighth round in the southern basin.

Mr George Foulkes (South Ayrshire, Lab): It is really the wisest use of revenues from this valuable, irreplaceable source of energy to say four million people to stay at home doing nothing. The revenues would be better used to provide jobs by increased public investment.

Mr Lawson: I deeply regret the present level of unemployment which is a consequence of the world recession. The use to which the North Sea oil revenues are being put has been reducing the very high public sector borrowing requirement which we inherited from the previous administration, which has enabled the new Government to transfer the shares of these new subsidiaries to me as Secretary of State and this will require an order which will be laid in the near future.

As for the existing partners of BGC these holdings, I know there was a report in the press from one of them - Amoco alleging that he was angry about this. My office have received a telephone call today from Mr Dalton, the company's spokesman, stating that he was misquoted and that he feels the Government has every right to continue with this policy.

Mr Edward Rowlands, and Opposition spokesman on energy (Mersey Valley, Lab): Can we have one clear categorical assurance that no decision to sell the Wych Farm interests will now be taken before the next election, as he never had a mandate to sell, it is a matter for the British Gas Corporation and the Dorset group and their discussions are now in their final stages.

Mr Lawson: Leaving aside that rather optimistic remark which is singularly empty of conviction, I cannot give that assurance because of course the Government are not a party to the sale. It is a matter for the British Gas Corporation and the Dorset group and their discussions are now in their final stages. I can tell him that BP's present intention having examined the bid, is not to exercise their matching rights. It is the intention that BP should become the operator.

Mr Gray: No. Present depletion policies have served us well by giving the oil industry the freedom and confidence to develop the resources of the North Sea to the economic benefit of the nation. The tax and royalty concessions announced in the Budget will further encourage the new development which we need.

Mr Gray: At a time of world glut and falling prices it would be in this country's interest to conserve North Sea oil stocks. The only reason the Government is not pursuing this policy is because of the need for revenue to finance to dole queues.

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More money for inner city renewal

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in a Commons written reply that he had approved in principle a further six projects for Urban Development Grant.

These schemes (the said) represent additional total investment of some £10m, achieved by an input of £1.5m of public expenditure.

The local authorities involved are Southwark, Newcastle, Lambeth, Leeds, Dudley and South Yorkshire. The projects include a project combining a petrol filling station and community workshops and training facilities in Brixton; two schemes for refurbishing listed buildings for private flats for sale; and a new shopping centre in Southwark.

I have now approved 72 projects for Urban Development Grant, representing total investment of some £1.5m in the inner cities and other urban areas. These schemes will involve public expenditure of about £31m, leading to additional private sector investment of about £122, a ratio of almost 1.4.

Peers reject twice yearly pension rise

The Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, which provides for increases in various social security benefits to be calculated on a historic basis rather than on a forecast basis, completed its committee stage without amendment.

Peers rejected during committee stage a new clause moved by Lord Banks (L), proposing that the Secretary of State, not later than six months of the Act coming into force, should recommend to Parliament a method for twice-yearly variations of the retirement pension.

The following Acts and Measures received Royal Assent: British Shipbuilders; Level Crossings; Plant Varieties; Nuclear Masterlist (Offensive Materials); Homes; Mental Health; Phonics; Forts (Reduction of Debt); Water; Licensing (Occasional Permissions); Energy; Pet Animals Act 1951 (Amendment); Pastoral Measure; Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure; Hampshire.

Lords business rearranged

Lord Denham, Government Chief Whip in the Lords, announced that in the light of the general election the business of the House this week had been rearranged.

He said the business would now be: Tomorrow (Tuesday): Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Bill, third reading; County Courts (Penalties for Contempt) Bill, second reading; and remaining stages: Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, committee.

Wednesday: Charities Bill, Second Reading; Abuse (Scotland) Bill, second reading; and remaining stages: debate on industrial production.

Thursday: Business to include National Heritage Bill and Mobile Homes Bill, Commons amendments; both advanced from Friday; Social Security and Housing Bill, report and remaining stages; Copyright (Amendment) Bill, second reading and remaining stage.

Friday: Bills brought or returned from the Commons: Telecommunications Bill and the Housing and Building Control Bill would not proceed any further.

Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House of Commons, announced in a business statement that the remaining stages of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, due for consideration today, would not be proceeded with.

Royal Assent

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Electrification likely of three main lines

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Government approval for the electrification of main lines to Leeds, Newcastle and Edinburgh at a cost of £300m is expected shortly. The decision is not dependent on the outcome of the general election, since the Labour Party is committed to the scheme.

The decision comes after British Rail submitted an improved case for the electrification after its initial rejection last year by Professor Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's economics advisor.

Work is expected to start next year on the new fast electric, which will have redesigned new coaches and airline-type catering from King's Cross to Huntingdon in 1985, Peterborough in 1987, Leeds in 1988, Newcastle in 1990, and Edinburgh in 1994.

The scheme is expected also to bring greatly improved services on other routes including Newcastle to Bristol and Cardiff, Edinburgh to Glasgow, Liverpool to Plymouth, and Glasgow to Aberdeen. These services will receive the 125 mph high speed trains displaced from the east

coast main line (ECML), in place of the aging diesels.

The scheme was twice refused after reservations expressed on the future of British Rail and its inter-city business by Professor Walters. As a result BR have tightened up their case considerably and now show a confident 10 per cent return on the scheme, compared with 7 per cent required for nationalized industry projects generally.

BR have still not succeeded in bringing the whole inter-city business into the 5 per cent profit target demanded by the Government. At present it looks as though BR will break even in 1986 and make a modest profit in 1988.

However much the rail network is reduced as a result of stringent policies towards the railways in the future, the ECML as BR's second most important route after Euston to Glasgow must survive; and if it survives without electrification, the cost of replacing diesels in the 1990s could be actually greater than that of electrification, but with an inferior service.

£2.2m aid for projects in Scotland

Government grants and loans totalling £2.2m for 14 projects were announced in Glasgow yesterday by Mr Allan Stewart, minister responsible for home affairs at the Scottish Office.

The allocations will allow projects valued at £14.9m to go ahead.

The assistance comes from the Government's LEG-UP scheme (Local Enterprise Grants for Urban Projects).

The largest project to receive help is a £4.6m warehouse conversion in Kent Road, Glasgow, where a block of 196 flats will be created with LEG-UP support of £240,000.

Hampden Park, Glasgow, receives £450,000 towards a £1.9m improvement scheme and Dundee ice rink £292,000 towards an extension.

One hop ahead

A wallaby, spotted near Pulham Market, Norfolk, yesterday by police is thought to have escaped from a zoo 18 months ago. It has evaded several attempts to catch it.

Polaris blast brings budget reforms

By Peter Hennessy

Britain has just achieved a first in nuclear weapons. It is a breakthrough, peaceful and benign, of which even the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament would wholly approve.

Though no official announcement has been made, a Royal Navy Polaris missile has been used as a lever to produce an important parliamentary reform, a spin-off without precedents. The man behind it is Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, Westminster's spending watchdog.

Mr Downey has used the sorry saga of the Chevaline improvement to the British Polaris force, whose chaotic financial history he unravelled for the all-party Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC), to persuade the Ministry of Defence and the Treasury to adopt a new system of public expenditure reporting.

In April last year, the PAC published its report on Chevaline, a complicated British-designed spacecraft crammed into the nose cone of Polaris



Mr Gordon Downey: Man behind spending watchdog

to enable its warheads to penetrate the anti-ballistic missile screen around Moscow. The document contained a stinging rebuke for successive Labour and Conservative administrations of the 1970s. It said:

In the case of Chevaline a major project costing £1,000m continued for over 10 years without Parliament being, in our view, properly informed of its existence and escalating costs. Our criticism is that the costs were

not disclosed, and that there was no requirement that they should be disclosed. The failure to inform Parliament on this committee until 1980 that a major programme on this scale was being undertaken, and that its cost was turning out to be so far in excess of that originally expected, is quite unacceptable. Full accountability to Parliament in future is imperative.

Thatcher's decision day diary

Last night Mrs Thatcher hosted a general reception for invited guests "from all walks of life."



One other area at which a future Labour government

The directors of Thomas Tilling plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

The Liberal Party headquarters said it had no central list of candidate selections, but a spokeswoman identified 16 constituencies where no candidate had yet been chosen. The Social Democrat side of the Alliance, the only party with a complete and up-to-date list at headquarters, said it had only

America accused at UN of declaring war against Nicaragua

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Nicaragua yesterday brought its grievances against the Reagan Administration to the United Nations Security Council for the second time since March.

In an emotive atmosphere heightened by internal debates in Washington, European and Latin American capitals over the proper course President Reagan should take in Central America, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, said that recent actions and pronouncements by the American Administration could be seen as constituting a genuine declaration of war.

Referring specifically to President Reagan's speech before a joint session of Congress and his subsequent remarks labelling anti-Sandinista rebels "freedom fighters" and ever more explicit admissions of covert aid to those rebels, Señor d'Escoto said there was a clear indication that the United States intended "to continue violating the most basic norms of international law upon which relations between states must be based."

He added: "Declaring that the United States is waging a war against Nicaragua cannot be taken as a figure of speech, much less as provocative rhetoric." Assumptions that the Reagan Administration was looking only to destabilize rather than overthrow, the

ruling Sandinista Government, were naive and misguided.

It was up to the Security Council, Señor d'Escoto said, to prevent the United States from feeling it could act with impunity against governments not to its liking.

He urged the Reagan Administration to abandon the East-West reference point against which the Central America region is measured, and once again called for a direct Nicaraguan-American dialogue to settle differences and find solutions.

As regularly as Señor d'Escoto returned to the theme of American intervention, he repeated Nicaragua's willingness to negotiate, his essential task apparently being to convince international public opinion to bring pressure upon the United States.

Nicaragua enjoys the sympathy of governments which can probably best be measured by the isolation the United States was forced to endure when the Council last met in March.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Minister said that in April alone there were 12 naval aggressions from counter-revolutionary forces, 17 armed incursions, including 13 attacks on frontier posts culminating in the massive invasion from Honduras territory of some 1,200 rebels.

MANAGUA: A new invasion by Honduran-based

rebel has been defeated after heavy fighting, Nicaraguan military sources said yesterday, Reuters report.

The sources said the rightist rebels were pushed back across the border on Sunday night and only small groups which split from the main insurgent force remained in the mountains of Nueva Segovia province.

The sources said 12 Government soldiers were killed and the rebels suffered numerous casualties in the latest fighting, near the village of Macarali within half a mile of the border.

The Sandinista Government says more than 4,000 rebels, mainly former National Guardsmen of Anastasio Somoza the former dictator who were ousted in 1979, are trying to invade from Honduras. It says 700 more rebels are operating on its southern border from camps in Costa Rica.

The official Nicaraguan news agency reported on Sunday that the military expected more invasion attempts. It quoted a border commander as saying the invaders had only retreated across the frontier to regroup for another attack.

Defence Ministry sources said Honduran soldiers fired across the border at the Nicaraguan town of La Papaya in an unprovoked attack in Sunday's fighting. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Nicaragua had sent a protest to Honduras over the incident.

'Slaughter' in Guatemala

New York (NYT) - An international group that monitors human rights has accused the Guatemalan Army of systematically murdering Indians and called for the immediate suspension of US military sales and the withholding of military aid to Guatemala.

In a report issued last week, the group, Americas Watch, said the human rights situation in Guatemala had deteriorated since the State Department approved a request for \$6m (£4m) worth of spare military parts in January. The approval ended a five-year embargo on arms shipments to Guatemala.

Mr Elliot Abrams, Assistant

Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, said his office had not received the report, but added that there was an inherent difficulty in interviewing refugees in Mexico.

The refugees there were not a representative proportion of the population, he said. Although some were not guerrilla sympathizers, others might be. Reporting on events in Guatemala without stepping foot into the country was not recommended.

Although civilian men of all ages had been shot in large numbers by the Guatemalan Army, women and children were routinely raped before

being killed, children were smashed against walls, choked, burned alive or murdered by machete or bayonet, the report said.

The report claimed that between 70,000 and 100,000 Indians had fled to southern Mexico. It said Guatemala had created a free-fire zone along its border with Mexico and routinely pursued and tried to kill refugees.

The report is based on a six-day visit to southern Mexico in March by Professor Robert Rogod Goldman, Professor of International Law at the American University in Washington, and Mr Stephen Kass, a partner in a New York law firm.

Return of hijacked plane delayed by a phrase

From Jacqueline Reditt, Seoul

Chinese and South Korean officials failed to agree on the final wording of a statement concerning the recent hijacking of a Chinese airliner after a full day of talks yesterday.

In spite of an earlier agreement that the six defectors who forced a domestic airliner to fly to South Korea last week, should be put on trial in Korea and that the airliner, its crew and passengers should be returned to China as soon as possible.

The main cause of disagreement was China's refusal to allow the name "Republic of Korea" to be used, even though, as the Korean side pointed out, Peking had used the name when it sent telegrams to the Seoul Government last week.

China does not recognize South Korea and is a close ally of North Korea, which calls itself the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

The Chinese delegation fears that if it signs a document with the Republic of Korea, this will

be interpreted as tantamount to recognition of the republic's status and will embarrass relations with the North.

A further cause for disagreement was the insistence of Mr Shen Tu, China's chief negotiator, that he sign the document in his capacity of director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of China, not as the representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China, as the South Koreans demanded.

Meanwhile, the 87 Chinese passengers appeared to be enjoying their enforced holiday. The South Korean authorities have laid on a full programme of sightseeing.

The English-language *Korea Times* reported that at lunchtime yesterday, they consumed beef ribs for 265 persons, 89 bowls of noodles and about 100 bottles of beer. According to the newspaper, "the early anxieties and discomfort of the Chinese people has turned into excitement . . . and their appetites seem to have been enhanced as well."

Moi says foreigners plotting to oust him

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

President Daniel arap Moi has caused surprise here by stating at a weekend rally in western Kenya that some foreign countries are grooming an unnamed Kenyan politician to take over the presidency.

He told his audience that he had been following the progress of this "plot", and warned those involved that they would fail if they tried to remove him. "I know that not everyone dances to my tune - but I was elected President to protect the lives of 17 million people", he said.

President Moi also suggested that some politicians in Kenya were trying to undermine the position of Mr Mwai Kibaki, the Vice President, and said that they should desist from such moves.

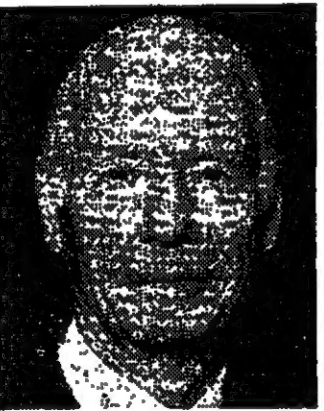
The president's remarks came after a period of political activity in Kenya. In a May Day address he told his ministers not to air their differences in public, but to show an example to other Kenyans.

Recently Mr Elijah Mwangi, the Tourism Minister, said publicly that some ministers were dissatisfied with President Moi's leadership - and accused them of being part of a disgruntled group who could cause disunity. He did not name them.

Political manoeuvring has intensified recently as preparations get under way for elections to local committees of the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU). Parliamentary elections are due to take place next year for a five-year term.

President Moi yesterday appealed to a small number of university lecturers, who fled the country after a coup attempt last year, to return home. He said they would not be harmed.

Several lecturers are in London where they have been openly critical of the Kenya Government's policies after the coup attempt last August.



Sir Richard Posnett
Papers passed to FO

Sensitive post goes to diplomat

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Dunsross, a career diplomat who has been High Commissioner in Barbados since last year, has been appointed the next Governor of Bermuda.

He will take over in succession to Sir Richard Posnett who resigned two months ago after allegations over his expense allowances. The post carries a salary of £43,000 and Lord Dunsross will be allowed more than £18,000 expenses for entertaining while at Government House.

Lord Dunsross, aged 56, became a diplomat after serving with the RAF as a pilot for three years immediately after the war. He served in Australia, East Pakistan, South Africa, Canada, Brussels and Fiji before moving to his present posting at Bridgetown.

He is the second viscount and succeeded his father in 1961. He has two daughters by his present marriage and four grown-up children by a previous one.

The appointment was made by the Queen on advice from the Foreign Office which had unofficially admitted having difficulty in finding the right man for the job.

Sources on the island said that all papers relating to the resignation of Sir Richard Posnett, who had already retired from the Foreign Office before going to Bermuda, had been passed to the Foreign Office.



Tearful Homage: The scene at Moscow's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as thousands paid respects to the dead.

Moscow V-Day parade brings out medals

Moscow (AP) - Thousands of Soviet veterans proudly wearing medals and campaign ribbons crowded into Red Square and other war memorials yesterday to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

The national holiday drew huge crowds on to flag-draped streets to commemorate the 1941-45 campaign against German invaders that left 20 million Russians dead and caused immense property damage.

On May 9, 1945, the capitulation of Hitler's forces was announced in Moscow with parades on Red Square reviewed by Stalin. Since then, the date has been an occasion

for mass outpourings of patriotism.

Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the Defence Minister, aged 74, who was the wartime Commander of Armaments, laid a wreath on the marble Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the foot of the Kremlin wall.

His order of the day, published on the front page by *Pravda*, hailed the Soviet triumph in the War and attacked the United States and Nato for seeking military superiority. He said the Soviet Union was ready to hit back hard if attacked and destroy its opponents.

A long line of veterans and civilians, some weeping openly, filed past the eternal flame

on the tomb to pay their respects to the sound of recorded funeral music.

Decked out with rows of wartime awards on their suits and old uniforms, men and women veterans thronged Red Square, the Bolshoi Theatre square, Gorky Park and other memorials round Moscow to swap war stories with old comrades from the front.

The five million-strong Soviet armed forces were represented by soldiers, airmen and seamen in dress uniforms, mingling with the veterans, workers, housewives and schoolchildren who used the day off to join the informal street parades in Moscow.

Fireworks were planned in the main cities of the Soviet Union in the evening.

Newspapers like *Pravda* were full of articles and photographs extolling Soviet courage in the war years, giving the impression that Soviet troops had won the war virtually single-handedly.

Andropov's Power: For the first time, *Pravda* confirmed yesterday that Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, had been made chairman of the Soviet Defence Council as well as being General Secretary of the Communist Party, AFP reports. The Defence Council is thought to have supreme control in the event of war.

Editor must produce secret file

From Tony Duboulin
Melbourne

The publication last week of an article based on secret files allegedly obtained from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) is rapidly becoming an issue of the freedom of the press and the rights of journalists not to reveal their sources of information.

Mr Brian Toohy, editor of the weekly *National Times*, which published the article, has been ordered to appear in the High Court in Sydney today to answer two subpoenas as the federal Government seeks to have an interim injunction granted last Thursday extended.

The first order him to appear before the court, the second to deliver documents, claimed to be secret, to the High Court registrar before the hearing.

At the hearing, the federal Government will be seeking to obtain a permanent ban on the publication of further material and the names of all people responsible for supplying the documents on which the article was based.

The federal Government also claims that the publication of the material is a breach of the Copyright Act and may claim damages for the alleged breach.

One of the key issues to be decided today is whether the publishers of the *National Times*, the John Fairfax Group, will hand over the documents as ordered.

The *National Times* said last week that it had access to tens of thousands of pages of classified documents.

It seems certain that Mr Toohy will not reveal the source of his information and that if the federal Government presses the issue a confrontation with the press is almost inevitable.

Meanwhile, the Australian Government has assured the Government of Papua New Guinea that Australia is not tapping telephones in that country.

Mr Michael Somare, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, summoned Mr Robert Birch, the Australian High Commissioner in Port Moresby, to his residence on Saturday. Mr Somare told Mr Birch that his Government was "very concerned" at reports that Australia had sophisticated telephone monitoring equipment.

Yesterday, Mr Somare told Parliament in Port Moresby that he was considering lodging a formal note of protest over the telephone bugging claims.

Jaruzelski faces church anger

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Unexpectedly, Poland faces this week a new cycle of political tension, with the Catholic Church leadership sharply criticizing the Government, a Soviet commentator hitting hard at pro-reformists in the Polish Communist Party and Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, becoming more radical, announcing that he was now "trapped like a rabbit in a cage".

From the Government point of view, this should have been a week in which it could signal its peaceful intentions, put the recent street demonstrations into a soft focus and emphasize that it was ready to receive the Pope next month. The weekend congress of Pron, a group that is supposed to open up dialogue between Communists and non-Communists, was intended to prepare messages of goodwill.

Instead, events are running in several different directions. A break-in at a Warsaw convent and the subsequent assault on Catholic aid volunteers has angered the church leadership

to such an extent that Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the primate, normally soft spoken, declared that social peace in Poland should be preserved by all groups, clearly including the authorities as well.

The church had the right to help the victims of martial law, he said, referring to the beaten up church volunteers who were in charge of distributing assistance to prisoners and their families.

Moreover, there should be no more tear gas shot into the sanctuaries of churches, just as political demonstrations should also be held elsewhere. Gas and water were shot into churches during pro-Solidarity demonstrations last week.

The Prime Minister's words are only a small reflection of the overall discontent of the church with the lead-in to the Papal visit. However, the authorities have at least released the nine associates of Mr Walesa held over the weekend.

Some of those rounded up were in a session with Mr

Walesa in Warsaw during which future solidarity tactics were discussed. A strong letter to the Sejm (Parliament) - calling amongst other things for an amnesty of political prisoners - was also drawn up.

The most alarming element over the weekend, however, is related to a Soviet commentary in the Moscow weekly *New Times* which attacks the liberal Communist newspaper *Polityka*. This was until a year ago edited by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Deputy Prime Minister, who still maintains close links.

The commentary is, in effect, a broadside against many reformist-minded members of the Polish party for ignoring "real socialism", paying obeisance to Solidarity ideals and ignoring the voice of the working class.

These liberal Marxists support General Jaruzelski, the Polish military leader, so the commentary, clearly approved at a high level in Moscow, is seen as very close to the bone.

Syria told it risks armed clash

From Our Correspondent
Jerusalem

Lieutenant General Moshe Levy, Israel's newly installed Chief of Staff, believes that there is a definite possibility of armed confrontation with the Syrians if they fail to pull their forces out of Lebanon, he told reporters during a visit to southern Lebanon on Sunday.

This view was amplified in yesterday's Israeli newspapers after a briefing for military reporters by an unidentified "authoritative source", apparently Mr Moshe Ahrens the Defence Minister.

According to this source, Israel was prepared to wait for "days but not months" for the Syrians to withdraw their troops and allow implementation of the withdrawal agreement.

The same source repeated that Israel was taking into account the possibility of war breaking out between Israel and Syria, but emphasized that this would not be at Israel's initiative. It was noted that the Syrians have been reinforcing their troops in Lebanon.

A unilateral Israeli withdrawal to the Awa river was possible, but any new deployment would be dictated by strategic considerations, the source said.

Swedes intercept coded signal in hunt for subs

From Christopher Mossey, Stockholm

A coded Russian radio message has been intercepted by the Swedish Navy near the area off Sweden's east coast where two suspected Soviet midge submarines are being hunted.

The short-wave message was picked up at Midlanda airport, near the east coast city of Sundsvall early Sunday morning, the Navy revealed yesterday.

The message, consisting of a series of unconnected Russian words, was sent at the same time as a Soviet tanker, the *Auskelis*, was in Sundsvall harbour loading methanol. The tanker was detained for nearly four hours before being allowed to leave on Sunday night under naval escort.

Experts were working to

break the cipher last night. Commander Tage Sjolander, press spokesman at search headquarters in Sundsvall, said it was thought the two submarines were lying on the seabed. There were no fresh contacts yesterday, he said.

"In such conditions there is little we can do but wait. They have to come up soon for air. Then we must be ready."

According to military sources quoted by *Dagens Nyheter*, Stockholm's main daily newspaper, the depth charges dropped by the Navy on Saturday were aimed at the midge's "mother" vessel, a conventional submarine which is thought to be lying just outside the area and organizing a breakout attempt.

Diversion of Etna lava 'not worth the cost'

Catania (AP) - Seven professors from the University of Catania have asked the local prefect to block a controversial plan to divert Mount Etna's lava flow, saying it was not worth the £3m it is expected to cost.

They said in a letter that the project could cause enormous damage to the countryside, and said it was being undertaken without any real need to safeguard inhabited areas which were not threatened by the eruption.

Work began eight days ago on a 23-ft wide canal to divert lava that has been pouring from a new crater since March 28 and prevent it reaching nearby villages, including Ragalna just over a mile away.

600 'slaves on plantation'

Brasilia (AFP) - Six hundred workers at the 352,000-acre Vale do Rio Cristaline plantation in the eastern Amazon, owned by Volkswagen do Brazil, are kept in virtual slavery, the Rev. Ricardo Rezende, a member of the Pastoral Commission of the Earth, linked to the national episcopal conference, said here.

They were "kept by force" on the plantation, beaten by the foremen and some had been killed, Volkswagen officials in São Paulo said private agencies were responsible for workers' recruitment but the company was investigating the priest's charges.

Iran price on Gulf war losses

The Gulf war has cost Iran at least \$136,000m (£90,000m) in lost output and public sector assets up to last September, according to the Iranian National News Agency monitored in London by Reuters. The \$90,000m in reparations Iran is demanding from Iraq covers only lost output of oil, industry, agriculture and other public sector industries.

BAHRAIN Gulf foreign ministers opened emergency talks here yesterday on the oil slick from damaged Iranian oil wells which it is estimated covers 20,700 square miles of the Gulf.

Divers held

Colombo - Two British diving instructors, named as James Lawrence and Andrea Cordani, were remanded until May 19 by the magistrate in Trincomalee on charges of collecting sea treasures from ship wrecks off the coast of Sri Lanka. Police said the two Britons had in their possession items salvaged from a French ship that sank in 1872.

Publisher jailed

Ankara - A military court in Istanbul sentenced Nadir Nadi, aged 75, the owner of the left-of-centre daily *Cumhuriyet*, to two months and 20 days in jail for instigating the people to crime. A similar sentence on the chief editor, Okay Gonensel, aged 33, was later changed to a 16,000 lira (£50) fine.

Phosphates ban

Berne (Reuters) - Switzerland is to ban phosphates from all washing powders to preserve fish life in its lakes, the government announced. The measure, to take effect in two to three years will cut the amount of phosphorus reaching the lakes by about a third.

Killer tigers

Yamaguchi (AFP) - Noriaki Matsui, aged 40, a zoo attendant, was killed by three Bengal tigers when he stepped out of a van to feed them at the Akiyoshida safari park in Yamaguchi prefecture, western Japan.

Panda eaten

Peking (AFP) - A peasant who strangled, skinned and ate a panda in a Shanxi wild life sanctuary, was jailed for two years. To cover up his crime he disconnected the transmitter on the panda's neck.

Pope admits Galileo was wronged

The Pope was speaking at an audience to mark the 350th anniversary of the publication of Galileo's famous dialogue on the two greatest systems of the world.

He told his audience, which included 30 Nobel prize winners, that the Church's experience during the Galileo affair and afterwards had led it to a "more proper attitude" and a "more accurate grasp of its own authority."

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Battle for the soul of the Afrikaner will reach its climax today

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African whites go to the polls today in four crucial by-elections in the northern province of Transvaal, the electoral power base of the ruling National Party, in the first big test of strength between the Government and the extreme right-wing forces unleashed by the formation of Dr Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party last year.

The by-elections are being held less than a week after the first reading in Parliament of the Government's controversial Constitution Bill. The Bill provides for the Indian and mixed-race Coloured minorities to be represented in Parliament alongside whites, and also for the creation of a powerful executive presidency.

These reforms have been the main subject of the election campaign. The far right has denounced them as heralding the beginning of the end of white rule, while liberals dismiss their impact on the structure of apartheid as purely cosmetic.

At the same time, both right and left fear that the proposed president would be a despot nominated by the Government and beyond the control of Parliament.

It has been a bitter and savage campaign with insults and charges of corruption being freely traded as belligerents, as Afrikaans-speaking commentators here have been at pains to point out, is not simply a split within a party but a *volkskeuring*, a split within a people.

Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, is seen to be battling the new regiments of the right, and the more modest forces of the left, for the soul of the Afrikaner.

Three of the by-elections, in the constituencies of Soutpansburg, Waterberg and Waterkloof, are to elect members to the federal House of Assembly in Cape Town. The fourth, in Carletonville, is to fill a seat on the Transvaal Provincial Council left vacant by the death of the National Party incumbent.

A total of some 69,000 (mostly Afrikaner) voters are involved, though more than a quarter of them have already voted by special or postal ballot.

Until very recently all four seats would have been regarded as rock-solid Government strongholds. All that changed with the expulsion of Dr Treurnicht, a former Cabinet minister, and 16 other MPs from the ruling party a year ago. Now, it is reckoned, only a few hundred votes either way could decide the issue in all four constituencies, indicating the precariousness of Government's once vice-like grip on Transvaal where 45 per cent of its directly elected seats are located.

The most intense spotlight has been focused on Soutpansburg, a huge, mainly farming area bordering Zimbabwe to the north, Mozambique to the east and Botswana to the west and reaching as far south as the lowveld mining town of Tzaneen.

Here Mr Fanie Botha, the Minister of Manpower and a leading reformist, is struggling against the Conservative Party's Mr Tom Langley to retain a seat he has held for the last 25 years. It was Mr Botha, much to the

anguish of his colleagues, who precipitated the by-elections by rashly calling Dr Treurnicht a coward in Parliament last February and challenging him publicly to a by-election duel.

Although such a contest was the last thing the Government wanted at this juncture, it felt it had to go ahead, once the challenge had been picked up by Dr Treurnicht, for fear of losing face, an ignominy which holds an almost oriental horror for Afrikaners.

To win the seat, the Conservative Party needs a swing to it from the National Party of about 20 per cent. It must also capture the votes cast at the last general election in 1981 for the even more right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) which agreed not to field its own candidate this time, and another right-wing group.

On the evidence of previous by-elections the Conservatives must be reckoned to have a good chance of pulling this off.

In Waterberg Dr Treurnicht is defending the seat he lost last year as a member of the Government. He is expected to hold it against a lacklustre National Party rival, Mr Eben Cuyler, but the position is complicated because the HNP's leader, Mr Jaap Marais, is also running, which will split the far-right vote.

The odd man out among the parliamentary by-elections is Waterkloof, an affluent Pretoria suburb, where the engaging Mr Tertius Smit, one of the new breed of liberal Afrikaners, is hoping to win the seat for the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party.

Japan gets backing for bigger navy

From David Watts, Singapore

When he returns from Tokyo today at the end of his tour of the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), Mr Yasu Hiron Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, can congratulate himself on going a long way on comparatively little political and economic substance.

The preparation was immaculate. There were no surprises along the way, and the Prime Minister clearly made the best of his material.

The Japanese got what they wanted: positive exposure for their new Prime Minister with a minimum of economic give-aways, but most important of all, endorsement for a build-up of Japanese military capability.

For the most part there was understanding for Japan's decision to defend sea lanes up to 1,000 miles from shore and why it is necessary so long as they were carried out in the context of the defence of the home islands.

Manila, however, remains concerned that the 1,000 mile limit of the plan would intrude into Philippine waters, but President Marcos made it clear in advance of Mr Nakasone's arrival that he saw no threat from Japan in the foreseeable future.

Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore are happy to see the ultimate expansion of Japanese naval power to take care of its own defences in order to free American naval forces for use further west, through the crucial Straits of Malacca and the Indian Ocean, where there has been an increase in Soviet naval activity recently.

On the last stop of his tour in Kuala Lumpur, Mr Nakasone assured a luncheon that the Japanese military build-up would be solely for self-defence.

Soares invites rival to join coalition

From Susan MacDonald, Lisbon

The Portuguese Socialists and Social Democrats have agreed to begin coalition negotiations with a view to forming a government. After a formal invitation from Dr Soares, the Socialist Party leader, to Senhor Mota Pinto, the Social Democratic leader, to join a coalition, talks between the two parties are now getting under way.

Although the Socialists won the general election last month they failed to gain an overall majority and have stated that they would form a minority government only if coalition talks failed and until new elections could be held.

The Social Democrats who headed the outgoing coalition, came second in the elections.

Negotiations, which could be prolonged, are unlikely to be easy. The Socialists will be negotiating in accordance with their centre-left election programme, while the Social Democrats, who are no longer in first position, will none the less be trying to impose certain centre-right conditions which they feel would cause internal opposition to such a coalition.

Sweeping gains for Spanish Socialists

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

There is no counterweight yet to the Spanish Prime Minister, hastened to deny yesterday that his Socialist Party had been placed in "too commanding a position" after sweeping gains in Sunday's local and regional elections only seven months after obtaining an absolute majority at the general election.

Although final results are yet to be announced by the Interior Ministry, the Socialists have won absolute majorities in 26 of the country's 52 biggest cities, including Madrid, with relative majorities in seven more. They also took control of 11 of the 13 newly-established autonomous regions, Madrid again among them.

The Socialist strategy, concentrated during four years when they ruled in the town halls, led to almost a doubling of the number of their councillors elected. In a turnout almost 3 per cent higher than in 1979, they got 65 per cent on Sunday, they obtained 43 per cent of the vote only some three per cent less than they got at the general election.

Señor González, striving to avoid crowing over his win, promised that if Spaniards were prepared to work hard and make sacrifices, not only could the economic crisis be overcome but their country could be modernized so that it would not again "miss the train of history". He gave the signal for discussions to begin this month on an economic stabilization programme.

The opposition coalition of right wingers, former Centre Democrats and Liberals led by Señor Manuel Fraga increased its vote over last October very slowly to 26 per cent.

This will allow Señor Fraga to maintain his position as leader, but the election results, and the mistaken strategy adopted of turning local elections into a referendum on Socialist rule, only confirm that

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Bangladesh: Shawkat Ali

By Caroline Moorehead

Mr Shawkat Ali, a retired army colonel and member of the central committee of the main opposition party, the Awami League, has been in detention since May last year. He is 49 and suffers from a chronic heart ailment, for which he is reported to be receiving no treatment. His wife and three children are living in considerable hardship.

Mr Ali was arrested over charges laid against him in 1979, shortly after he had been elected to Parliament. They were initiated by the defeated Bangladesh Nationalist Party candidate for the constituency, Naria, in Faridpur, and related to alleged murder and kidnapping offences, said to have been committed in the early 1970s.

Both the Freedom Fighters are now out of prison. Mr Ali has been granted bail by the Dhaka High Court, but remains in indefinite detention under the Special Powers Act.

Prisoners of conscience

In October last year, Mr Ali was acquitted by a special martial law court in Jessore. Instead of being released, he was transferred from jail in Jessore to Dhaka Central Jail and accused of trying to create a "sharp division".

Accused with him were two other Freedom Fighters leaders - Mr Ali is chairman of the Freedom Fighters Solidarity Council which represents volunteers who fought in the 1971 Bangladesh war against Pakistan.

The new programme will need the strengthening of the federal mechanisms to prevent the nation's six republics continuing to pursue their own



Lucky to be alive: Mr John Hutley, a New Zealand fisherman, aged 53, with his wife Rose and daughter Karen, after being trapped for 45 hours in an air pocket in an overturned trawler. Divers took in a breathing mouthpiece and pulled him free through a tiny hole.

Pessimism descends on France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Today marks the second anniversary of President Mitterrand's election. Never before have the Socialists been in power for so long. Never before has the fall in popularity of a French President been so abrupt and sharp. Never before under the Fifth Republic has France had to face such an acute economic crisis.

The latest opinion poll carried out by Sofres and published at the weekend by the weekly *Figaro* magazine shows that the proportion of people expressing confidence in President Mitterrand's ability to solve the nation's problems has plummeted from 74 per cent in June 1981, just after his election, to 49 per cent today.

The fall in confidence in M. Pierre Maurois, newly reappointed as Prime Minister by President Mitterrand, has been even more precipitous, dropping from 71 per cent two years ago to 37 per cent today.

That there should be some fall in the Government's popularity during a period of economic crisis is hardly surprising. Nobody likes to see their income tax go up, or see their standard of living fall, or have their freedom to take holidays abroad restricted. However, perhaps more disturbing is the general feeling of pessimism revealed by the polls.

People will usually swallow an unpleasant medicine if they believe that it will do them some good. But three-quarters of those questioned in the Sofres poll said they did not think that the Government's fight against inflation or unemployment would be effective.

There is without a doubt widespread disillusionment throughout the country.

The Government's indisputable advances on the social front - the fifth week's paid holiday, the sharp increase in pensions and family benefits and wages for the lowest paid. The 39-hour working week, extension of workers' rights, the abolition of capital punishment - are things of the past that can no longer be offset against demands for new sacrifices.

But contrary to the impressions given by headline-grabbing news of violent clashes between students and the police, hospitals immobilized by doctors' strikes (now solved), and angry demonstrations by farmers, shopkeepers and small businessmen, the general discontent is not about to erupt into anything approaching the student riots, general strike and political crisis of May 1968.

There is no real focus for the discontent. It is a more general feeling of malaise, of aimless drifting with no one in control at the helm. The Government's image has become one of incompetence, indecisiveness and general disarray.

Leading article, page 13

3,000 gather in Berlin to plan anti-missile drive

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A five-day convention of peace movements from leading West European countries opened in West Berlin yesterday in the hope of mobilizing public opinion against deployment this autumn of new Nato missiles and encouraging campaigns of civil disobedience.

Some 3,000 delegates are expected to attend the second European Nuclear Disarmament Convention, including leaders of the West German Green Party, Mr Bruce Kent, chairman of the CND, a seven-man delegation from the Transport and General Workers Union, and leaders and participants in the women's protest at Greenham Common air base.

Mr Wedgwood Benn was due to arrive last night, but may now cancel his visit.

Delegates were also invited from unofficial peace movements in Eastern Europe, but no one has yet obtained an exit visa to come here. Official government-sponsored peace movements, including the Soviet movement, have refused to take part because of the inclusion of Soviet SS20 missiles and other Soviet weapons in the agenda.

At a press conference yesterday, symbolically held at five minutes to 12, Mr Ken Kosters, secretary of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, which launched the first general appeal for European disarmament in 1980, said: "Unless people

18 months there were 147 false alarms - 'any one of which could have been lethal and begun the process of Armageddon'."

Mr Daniel Ellsberg, a veteran American peace campaigner, said both the Pershing 2 and the planned MX missiles were first strike weapons, as indeed were all land-based missiles in Western Europe that were not designed to survive a nuclear attack, and therefore could not be seen as retaliation forces.

Church leaders had made it clear that nuclear weapons were never to be used in response to conventional attacks. The bishops had even stated that Roman Catholics in the American armed forces should "refuse to detonate nuclear weapons even if the order came from the President".

The conference organizers are still hoping that East European can attend, and vigorously rejected Soviet assertions that the meeting would serve Nato's interests.

They produced a cardboard box containing a dove of peace, said to have been sent to West Germany, the Russians had already announced they would launch on warning. In the past

Big parties maintain stranglehold

With Venezuelan elections due this year, COLIN HARDING, in the second of two articles, assesses the political system and the contenders in Latin America's wealthiest country.



The Venezuelan political system, which celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the return to democratic rule in January, is facing the most searching test yet of its stability and maturity.

The candidates competing for power in the December presidential elections cannot count on a continuation of the growth and prosperity of the last decade, instead, must try to convince the overwhelmingly youthful electorate that he is the best qualified to cope with the economic crisis brought by the slump in oil prices.

The creation of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was largely the work of a Venezuelan politician, Dr Juan Pablo Pérez Alfonzo. His foresight was vindicated when oil prices soared in 1973-74, and Venezuela's national income went up with it.

It became the wealthiest country in Latin America, and was able to import apparently unlimited quantities of consumer goods. At the same time, billions were spent on large-scale development projects. Caracas, the capital, became a jungle of urban motorways, high-rise office development and luxury shopping complexes.

Politics during the oil boom were a spoils system, in which militancy in the two main parties was seen as a passport to a government job, or to

even though voting is theoretically compulsory. The rate of voter registration has been very slow, and the polls show that many intend to abstain.

There appears to be widespread disillusionment with the political system, which has come to be regarded as a mechanism for concentrating power and influence in few hands. The 150,000 young Venezuelans who come on to the job market this year face poor employment prospects, but see few signs of concern about their plight among the politicians.

In his later years, Dr Pérez Alfonzo came to regret the effects of the oil-based prosperity he had fought to make possible. He became a Jeremiah, telling Venezuelans that their wealth was making them lazy and irresponsible, fit only to spend money they had done nothing to deserve on goods they did not need. He was widely respected, but the implications of his message were ignored.

The prophet died long before the crisis he knew to be inevitable struck. The electorate appears to have little confidence in either of the main parties, Acción Democrática (AD) and the Christian Democrats, who are known as Copei.

More than 60 per cent of the electorate of 7.9 million are under 24; at least one and a half million of 18 and over will be able to vote for the first time this year.

Whether they will exercise that right is another matter.

AD contender, a comfortable lead in most opinion polls.

The campaign is not about issues but personalities. The Venezuelan system invests almost unlimited power in the President and very little in supposedly policy-making bodies such as the Cabinet and Congress.

Dr Caldera has made the more impressive showing so far. He has emphasized his experience.

His AD rival comes across as a genial but lack-lustre figure, who has apparently been told by Mr Joe Napolitano, his American campaign adviser, to avoid debates and media appearances, which might expose his limitations.

The left may have thrown away its best chance yet to break the two main parties' stranglehold on Venezuelan politics by fielding two candidates. Señor Teodoro Petkoff is a former guerrilla leader, who accepted a government amnesty in the late 1960s; his party, Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), recently disavowed its Marxist past, and hopes to win protest votes from both AD and Copei.

Señor José Vicente Rangel is a veteran presidential contender, who stood for MAS in the past. He is now supported by a coalition of small parties, including the Communists. He and Señor Petkoff together should reach a respectable total of votes, but there is no sign so far of a stampede away from the traditional parties.

Concluded

Six economies in shambles without Tito

From Our Correspondent, Belgrade

There have been no fundamental changes in the three years since Tito died. His basic tenets remain unquestioned and the complex decision-making system continues to function on the principle of consultation and agreement. But without Tito's unique authority at its head, the system has become a political and economic shambles.

The political atmosphere has changed, however, with relatively greater freedom of debate, particularly striking in the press. In recent months this tendency has come under fierce attack from politicians, but the media continue to voice criticism and to investigate the causes of the economic disaster, if in a lower-key manner.

In addition it has recognized that the federal parliament is the place where conflicting interests can be reconciled without endangering stability. The struggle is often conducted

behind the scenes, among factions of the leadership, but it also involves various regional interests.

Over the past three years, the power of the central authority has continued to diminish while that of the regions has increased. This decline of central authority has been apparent within the Communist party itself, and today none of the personalities at the centre of politics can be regarded as having a Yugoslavia-wide identity or power base.

In both state institutions and the party, power flows from the republics.

One leading politician, Professor Nejdžan Pasić, president of the Serbian Constitutional Court, has identified the system whereby the Communist Party exercises a monopoly in the selection of officials as being a main source of Yugoslavia's problems.

Calls for democratization of

the system, which was established under Tito, have come from various political circles. The critics believe democratization would bring the right people into responsible jobs.

"In other countries," wrote a political commentator, "institutions remain, but people in them change. In Yugoslavia, institutions change but the people remain the same."

Editor forced out: Journalists on Yugoslavia's oldest and most respected daily *Politika* are defying attempts by politicians to appoint an outsider to succeed Mr Dragoljub Trifunović, the editor-in-chief, whose resignation was forced by political pressure designed to bring the media under closer control.

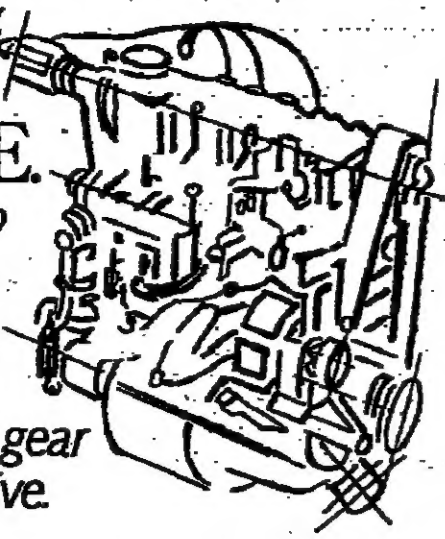
The editor left the circumstances of his departure were known but said that the reason was never explained to him directly.

Meet the Nova. Vauxhall's new little car. A car designed to do a lot, a little better.

Its imaginative design has achieved a greater sense of space in a quieter interior. And a new generation of engines offer more power, more punch and more economy.

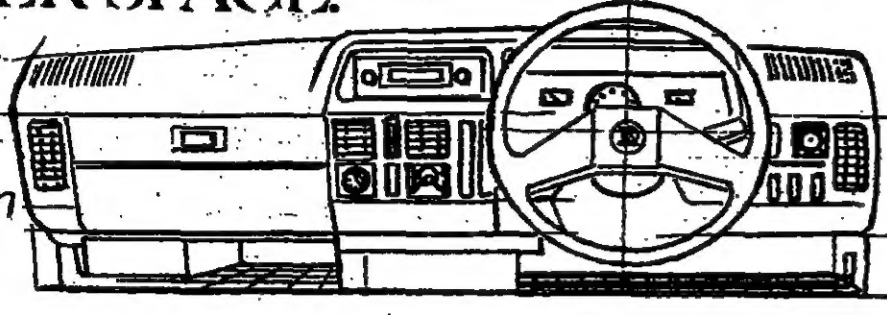
BETTER TO DRIVE.

Even in third gear, the Nova will zip from 15 mph to 65 mph and back again without the slightest hesitation from the engine. An achievement made possible by the design concept of Low End Torque (LET). With fewer gear changes, the Nova's easier and punchier to drive.



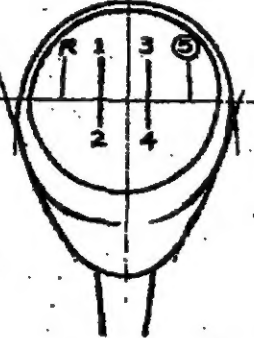
BETTER SPACE.

Within modest inches, the Nova is deceptively large. Its wide doors open wider than its major competitors. Likewise, it offers the driver better headroom, better legroom and better hiproom.

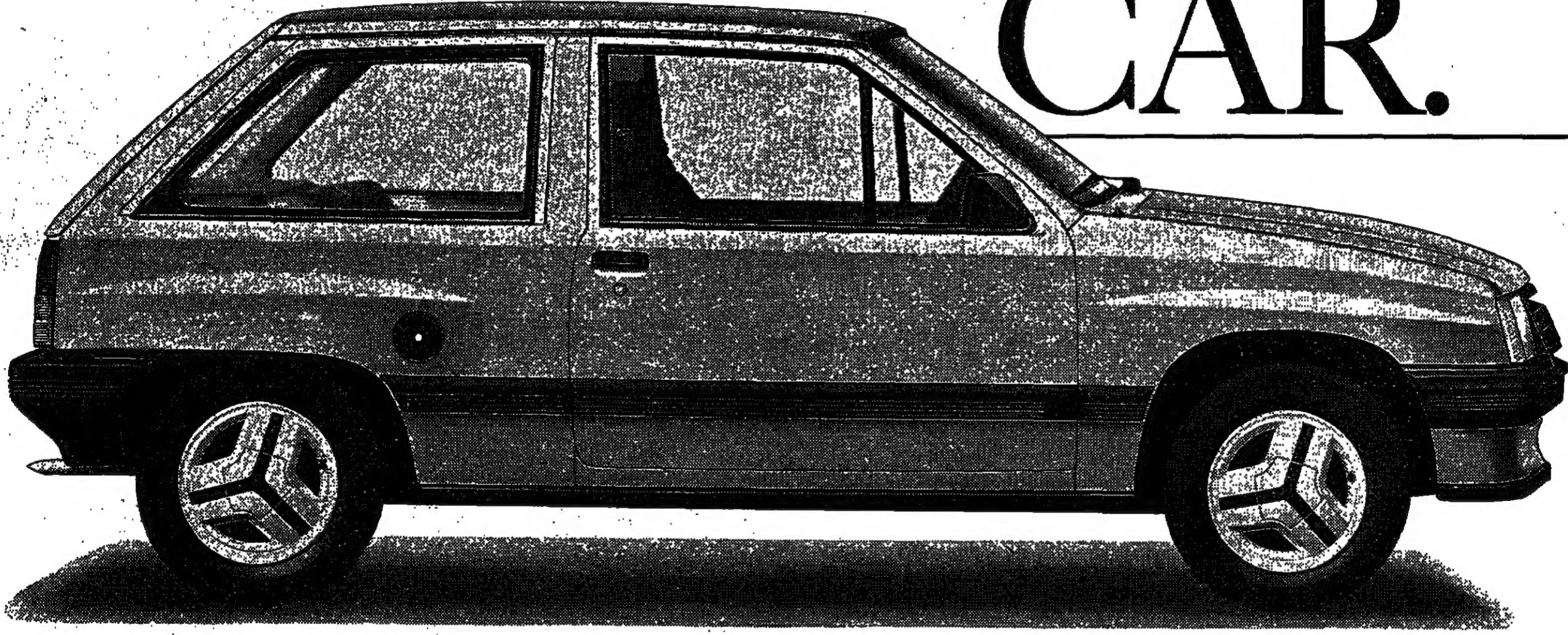


BETTER ECONOMY.

With the aid of better aerodynamics, the Nova's 1.0 and 1.2 litre LET engines deliver 57.6 mpg at 56 mph. And 60.1 mpg with the 5-speed gearbox, available as an extra cost option.

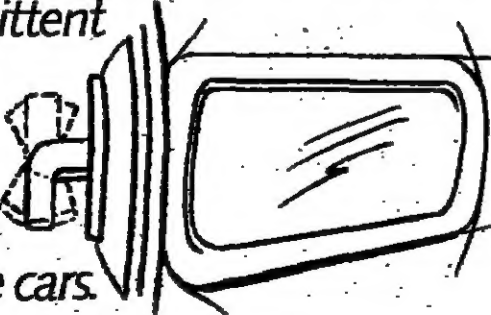


THE NEW VAUXHALL NOVA. THE LITTLE BETTER CAR.



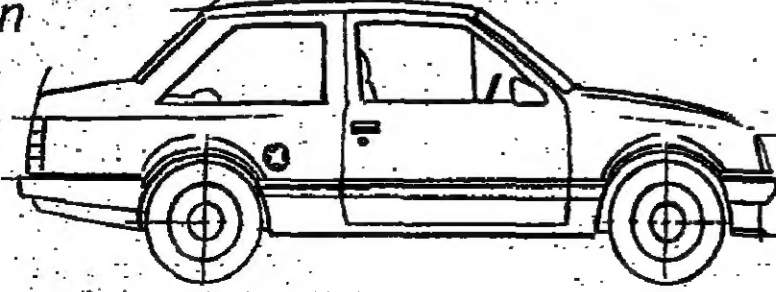
BETTER EQUIPMENT.

In striking contrast to other small cars, the Nova features a fully integrated dashboard. Every model has power brakes, a laminated windscreen and halogen headlamps. There's an intermittent rear wash wipe on hatchbacks. And on L models, there's a push button radio and a drivers door mirror that adjusts from inside the car. All touches of luxury traditionally found only on more expensive cars.



BETTER CHOICE.

The Nova is not one car but two. The saloon offers an enormous boot of 15.2 cu.ft. which is even bigger than you'll find on a lot of much larger family saloons.



FROM £3,496.

Until now a modest price meant a basic car. Nova marks the turning point. We offer all of its refinement in 4 models, from just £3,496 to £4,273. The Nova is waiting for you to test drive at your friendly Vauxhall-Opel dealer.



BETTER. BY DESIGN.



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ILLUSTRATED: NOVA L HATCHBACK £4273. DASHBOARD FROM NOVA L. ALLOY WHEELS SHOWN ARE AN EXTRA COST OPTION. ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VRI. DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES EXTRA. DOT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES MPG (L/100KM). NOVA 1.0 CONSTANT 56MPH: 57.6(4.9), CONSTANT 75MPH: 42.8(6.6); URBAN CYCLE: 37.7(7.5). NOVA 1.2: CONSTANT 56MPH: 57.6(4.9); CONSTANT 75MPH: 43.6(6.5); URBAN CYCLE: 34.0(8.3). NOVA 1.0 5 SPEED: CONSTANT 56MPH: 60.1(4.7); CONSTANT 75MPH: 44.0(6.4); URBAN CYCLE: 37.1(7.6). NOVA 1.2 5 SPEED: CONSTANT 56MPH: 60.1(4.7); CONSTANT 75MPH: 44.8(6.3); URBAN CYCLE: 33.2(8.5).

SPECTRUM

When Joyce Johnson met Jack Kerouac on a blind date in 1957, she was a publisher's secretary and he was a novelist whose one book had brought him no success at all.

In the second extract from her new book, she describes his arrival in New York for publication of the novel which was to bring him vast and bewildering acclaim

'Is America going Beat?'

On the Road was published on September 5, 1957. I have the distinct recollection of spending much of September 4 sitting in one of the tall narrow windows of the apartment I'd moved into just two days before. I remember the view of the opposite brownstones, unrenovated then and tatty, and the high stoops where supers stood smoking and which old ladies slowly climbed with their wheezing dogs. Positioning myself to face west, I could see all the way to Columbus Avenue and Donnelly's Irish Bar, and beyond that to Broadway, where Jack might come around the corner walking with rucksack from the subway any time that afternoon, turning up 68th Street with a thirsty glance at Donnelly's on his way to what he'd called in his last letter from Orlando "our apartment" — so happy that I'd found it, although he swore he would have been content to stay with me in the Yorkshire. Anything was better than gloomy Mexico.

I'd mailed him \$30 from my writing-time money for the bus ticket to New York, where tomorrow he was going to be interviewed by Time magazine, which was also sending a reporter to talk to Allen Ginsberg in Paris. By noon the phone had started ringing with messages from Viking Press. Was Jack Kerouac there yet? Would he call as soon as he arrived? Would I tell him they had a lot of things lined up for him? Would I make sure he called? The publicity director seemed on the edge of being distraught. "Who am I speaking to, by the way?" she asked cautiously. Was she entrusting important matters to one of those abandoned young women the author of *On the Road* wrote about? I said I was a friend of Jack's, and added in my best Barnard College voice that I'd worked in publishing until recently myself. Between calls I'd run back to the window.

It was the time of year, not quite fall, when usually nothing important happened, when the city, lulled by the last fierce heat, took a breath before what Jack still called with boyish fervency "the great new season."

Somewhere on the Cape or on the Sound, Orville Prescott, the conservative middle-aged daily reviewer for the *New York Times*, was taking his annual vacation. In the August doldrums, the task of reviewing *On the Road* had fallen to a younger man named Gilbert Millstein, who had quietly been keeping track of Kerouac

for years — ever since he'd come upon the phrase "Beat Generation" in John Clellon Holmes's novel *Go* and, pursuing the definition further, asked Holmes to write a piece about it.

Apparently it was sheer luck, this matter of timing — much as it later seemed like brilliant strategy on Viking's part.

In the late afternoon of September 4, the Greyhound bus slipped in toward the back door of Manhattan. It crossed the Jersey flatlands, the cattail marshes — oil-ravaged now — where industrial chimneys spout eternal flame and where, suddenly, the Pulaski bridge rusts against the sky, a Kline painting too vast for any gallery. It's just beyond there that the towers of the city first appear, silver ghosts rising above the rank wastes, the asbestos rooftops of mean towns, marking the journey's final lap.

It was a return route Jack knew by heart. New York was the bitter testing ground of promises, never giving you what you bargained for, always holding something back. With his first book no one could have made him believe that. But by now he believed he was ready to settle for much less than he'd wanted then: enough money to tide him over for a while, a few good times to remember later, some acknowledgment wrested from the critics that at least in the music of his prose he'd broken ground (little chance they'd look kindly on his subject matter).

He had mixed feelings about *On the Road*. It had been written six years ago, the work of a very young man, about his adventures with Neal Cassidy. When he'd given Neal one of the first bound copies in California, he'd felt a coldness in the way Neal had looked at him. The Viking editors had violated its spontaneity anyway. Now, when it was too late, he regretted every revision they'd talked him into. As for *Dr. Sax* and *Vision of Cody*, the two books he considered his great, wild, important works, no publisher wanted any part of them.

Still he imagined celebrity with total naïveté — the longing of a shy man to become less tenuously connected to the world. Through your book you could become known without giving yourself away. When he'd had enough of all the literary parties, the mad Manhattan nights, he'd pick up his earnings, say goodbye to his New York friends, head out again freer than ever.

Standing at the window as the afternoon of September 4 shifted into evening, my own mind was on nonliterary matters. In fact, the old-fashioned sentence I was thinking of wouldn't have sounded at all like

Kerouac to any of his million future readers — "I can hardly wait to hold you in my arms" — written in pencil at the end of the letter he'd sent five days ago.

I saw a man come down 68th Street. He had gleaming black hair, a Hawaiian shirt in a loud blue pattern — blue as his eyes. . . . It took me a moment to be sure. Then I ran down the stairs.

There was a news-stand at 66th Street and Broadway right at the entrance to the subway. Just before midnight we woke up and threw on our clothes in the dark and walked down there. According to Viking, there was going to be a review. "Maybe it'll be terrific. Who knows?" I said. Jack said he was doubtful. Still, we could stop at Donnelly's on the way back and have a beer.

We saw the papers come off the truck. The old man at the stand cut the brown cord with a knife and we bought the one on the top of the pile and stood under a streetlamp turning the pages until we found "Books of the Times". I felt dizzy reading Millstein's first paragraph — like going up on a Ferris wheel too quickly and dangling out over space, laughing and gasping at the same time. Jack was silent.

We walked to Donnelly's and spread the paper out on the bar and read the review together, line by line, two or three more times, like students poring over a difficult text for which they sense they're going to be held responsible.

... the most beautifully executed, the clearest and most important utterance yet made by the generation Kerouac himself named years ago as "beat," and whose principal avatar he is. Just as, more than any other novel of the Twenties, *The Sun Also Rises* came to be

regarded as the testament of the Lost Generation, so it seems certain that *On the Road* will come to be known as that of the Beat Generation.

It was all very thrilling — but frightening, too. I'd read lots of reviews in my two years in publishing: none of them made pronouncements like this about history. What would history demand of Jack? What would a generation expect of its avatar?

Jack kept shaking his head. He didn't look happy, exactly, but strangely puzzled, as if he couldn't figure out why he wasn't happier than he was.

We returned to the apartment to go back to sleep. Jack lay down obscure for the last time in his life. The ringing phone woke him the next morning, and he was famous.

The call was from Keith Jennison, one of Jack's editors at Viking, who was rushing up to the apartment with half a case of champagne. He carried it up the four flights of stairs and we drank it with orange juice, which seemed more Lost Generationish than Beat, as the phone kept on ringing with news of reporters who wanted to interview Jack, and excited old friends, and invitations to various gatherings, and my mother, who wanted to know when I was coming to dinner and what was all that talking going on in the apartment. It was the radio, I said. But it was Jack, who'd downed a lot of champagne rather quickly and finally gotten smashed and broken the quiet that might have seemed gloomy to Keith Jennison, achieving the boisterous high spirits appropriate to the occasion. Jack had his own extravagant ideas of courtesy — in some way he felt honor-bound to meet other people's expectations.

The first of many interviewers of the author of *On the Road* arrived a few

hours later to get the inside story on the Beat Generation and its avatar. What was it really like to be Beat? he wanted to know. "Tell me all about it, Jack." When did you first become aware of this generation? And how many people are involved in it, in your estimation? Is America going to go Beat? Are you telling us to now turn our backs on our families and our country and look for kicks?

"Hey," Jack said. "Have some champagne. My publisher came up with all this champagne this morning."

"Thank you, no. I'll stick to coffee." The interviewer made a note on his pad and explained that he did not want to cloud his impressions. Jack advised him to try writing when he was high. The interviewer said maybe he'd do it sometime, but it didn't go along with journalism when you were dealing with fact. Expansively Jack revealed he'd wanted to be a journalist himself, a great sportswriter, and his father Leo Kerouac had always hung out with newspapermen in the days when he was a printer in Lowell. The interviewer wasn't too interested in that. "Let's get back to the Beat Generation for a minute. Jack, why do you consider yourself and your friends 'beaten'?"

Eavesdropping from the kitchen, where I'm boiling water for coffee, I don't think much of this reporter, who seems to have swallowed Millstein's review without understanding it at all.

Beaten? Bewilderedly Jack laughs and shakes his head, then with weirdly courteous patience launches into the derivation of the epithet — first uttered on a Times Square street corner in 1947 by the hipster-angel Herbert Huncke in some evanescent moment of exalted exhaustion, but resonating later in Jack's mind, living on to accrue new meaning, connecting finally with the Catholic, Latin *beatific*. "Beat is really *beatific*. See?"

Again and again in the coming months he will go through this derivation with increasing weariness — for other journalists, in laboured articles he himself will write. Blinking into the glare of hot white lights he will repeat it before television cameras and deliver it into microphones on the stages of auditoriums, the words shurring progressively, emptying, wine will make them flow disconnectedly from the shamed glow on stage.

No one had much patience for derivations by 1957. People wanted the quick thing, language reduced to slogans, ideas flashed like advertisements, never quite sinking in before the next one came along. "Beat Generation" sold books, sold black turtleneck sweaters and bongos, berets and dark glasses, sold a way of life that

seemed like dangerous fun — thus to be either condemned or imitated. Suburban couples could have beatnik parties on Saturday nights and drink too much and fondle each other's wives. I forget when it was that *beatnik* entered the vernacular — could it have been as soon as October? The San Francisco columnist Herb Caen gets the credit for inventing it. How deftly it got the whole thing down to one word. The Russian-sounding suffix (the ascent of Sputnik was in the public consciousness at the time) hinted at free love and a little communism (not enough to be threatening), as well as a general oafishness. "Beat Generation" had implied history, some process of development. But with the right accessories, "beatniks" could be created on the spot.

For Jack, fame was as foreign a country as Mexico, and I was his sole companion in its unknown territories. He'd quickly learned it was a country with sealed borders. You couldn't leave it when you'd had enough of it, though it could cast you out when it had had enough of you. It fed you and stoned you, flattered you and mocked you — sometimes all in the same day.

Mostly I found myself waiting around to get him out of places where he'd stayed too long and drunk too much and where men would be wanting to take him on in a fight and terrifyingly avid women would be hanging around his neck.

At WOR-TV I sat in a glass booth with the publicity director of Viking, watching Jack in black and white on a monitor. It was the new John Wingate show, fortuitously entitled *Nightbeat*. Talk shows had just recently been introduced on television, and they were all the rage. People could sit securely in their living rooms and watch the latest celebrities being shown up. It was great democratic entertainment. Jack sat on a swivel stool with a spotlight on him like a suspect awaiting the third degree, his hair tangled and wet, his face gone slack. I knew exactly how much wine he'd had to drink to get himself there, and I felt scared for him.

"Tell me, Jack, just exactly what you're looking for," John Wingate asked in his smoothly supercilious announcer's voice.

"I'm waiting for God to show me His face."

It was the truth, but somehow not the right kind of truth for television. Much as your host seemed to prod you toward a striptease, you were not supposed to show yourself naked.

That night Jack knew he'd crossed some dangerous line. He'd failed to protect that deep visionary part of himself that had to remain in darkness, that could only reveal itself in dreams or books. For the next two days he stayed in the apartment and hardly spoke at all, even to me.

The critics stood waiting to hurl bricks at the hoodlum, Neanderthal, "slob running a temperature", whose froakish, manifesto seemed to threaten all that they held sacred, who spoiled the view from the millioned windows of the ivory tower by throwing garbage all over the Pruffrockian lawn — entrails of cars and broken bottles of the cheapest wines, discarded old shoes and ominous white powders. Soon madmen would roam the marble corridors of culture, and what about common decency? As for those who considered themselves truly hip, they detected something decidedly uncool in *On the Road* and dismissed Jack as a sentimentalist.

The fans stood waiting at the stage door for someone who resembled Neal Cassidy to come out — and got Jack Kerouac instead. "Your boyfriend's a homo, isn't he?" said a young actress who'd flirted with Jack unsuccessfully all evening. "Too bad he's an alcoholic," said a host who had plied Jack with drinks at a literary party on Park Avenue. For a few weeks there were rumours in Hollywood that *On the Road* would go for \$100,000 in a movie deal negotiated by Sterling Lord. ("The Lord is my agent, I shall not want," Jack quipped, and in his mind blew the whole bundle on a house for Mémère much grander than anything she'd ever imagined, to which her son Baron Jean Louis Lebris Kerouac would return after a triumphal flight to the West Coast where he would hobnob with Frank Sinatra — they would join their masculine voices in song, astonishing the bored blonde strikers in the cocktail lounges of Beverly Hills.)

In Jack's old haunts on Bleeker Street and MacDougal, in the San Remo and the Kettle of Fish, the suburbanians whispered to each other that Jack Kerouac had sold out, would never write another word worth reading.

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Getting the result, Brian, that we came for

MOREOVER... Miles Kington



Primitive man used to live a life through the dead days of winter, never quite believing that the warm, hopeful days of spring would return, and most of us feel the same about the end of the football season. But here it is at last: Liverpool have reasserted their grip on the top of Division One. Hereford and Crewe have established an unrivalled claim to the bottom of Division Four, and most of the big questions in between will soon be answered, won't they, Brian?

The rest of us have an unclouded summer of sport to look forward to before the nights grow long again. Here, to remind you, are the highlights of the glorious season.

May 11 Arsenal FC start their

summer tour of the Far East, drawing 1-1 with Hongkong Arts Festival XI.

14 The Invicta Ashray World Snooker Championships at Poulton-le-Fylde.

17 Healey strawberries come into open season.

18 Strawberries run out.

23 1986 World Cup Preliminary Qualifying Group 38: South Georgia v Patagonia.

Pitcairn Island v BBC Natural History Unit, US Weather Ship "H. L. Mencken" v Ascension.

27 Britain swept by rain, storms hail and election fever. The Cricket Pools Panel meets for the first time, and declares every match a draw of the kind which is helping to drive crowds away from cricket.

June 1 South Africa announce a tour of the country by a top European team, but give no details of who, where or indeed

what game is to be played. Worldwide protest.

2 First of 17 Test matches against New Zealand starts at Lord's. Some play is possible on the second day.

8 The Peerless Cigarette Paper Company World Snooker Championships at Warrington.

9 Scottish football season starts.

15 After 10 Test Matches have been played against New Zealand, England lead 1-0.

18 South Africa gives a hint about the world-class team that will shortly be touring: they will not be on horse-back. Arsenal v Shanghai Province (first leg).

23 The Buenos Aires Marathon: an inquiry is set up after several thousand runners disappear during the race.

27 Wimbledon. An English player beats the sixteenth seed and is admitted to hospital for examination.

July 2 South Africa admits that, well, maybe some of the players will be on horseback.

7 Fifteenth Test against New Zealand ends in an exciting draw when England, set to make 156 to win in 30 overs, get 55 for the loss of only 1 wicket.

10 Arsenal fly over South Africa but do not land.

11 The "Made in Eastern Europe" Match Box World Snooker Championships on Channel 4.

19 In the so-called "Mile of the Century", Sebastian Coe pulls out with a twinge and Steve Ovett scratches because of

running shoe trouble. In the race itself, Belgian pace-maker Rick van der Bock drops out after two laps and waves the rest on. Unfortunately, there is nobody behind him.

21 South Africa announces that it has started importing foxes.

22 The British Open Golf Championship, which is open to any American to win, is won by an American.

30 So is the Americas Cup.

29 Arsenal 3: Rawalpindi 0. August 1 First of a series of 40 one-day matches against the touring New Zealand side.

3 The Spoils Pipe Cleaner World Snooker Championships, Chipping Norton Town Hall.

7 South Africa calls press conference to announce first

ever fox hunt in South Africa, a sport which is open to any citizen, be he white, black or visiting Japanese, who owns a horse and a pack of dogs.

10 Opening day of All-Basque Pelota Championships. Arsenal is knocked out in the first round. The manager says: "My boys are very tired. We were not used to the conditions. We had never played the game before. This is the result we came for."

11 Rest day for touring cricket sides. The New Zealand team goes on a walkabout.

12 Zambia and 10 other African nations ban horses, on the grounds that some of them are planning a tour of South Africa.

27 The Venice Marathon. Several drowned. 29 English football season starts. Rain. Hail. Plague of frogs. Eclipse of the moon. September 1 Winter.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 56)

ACROSS

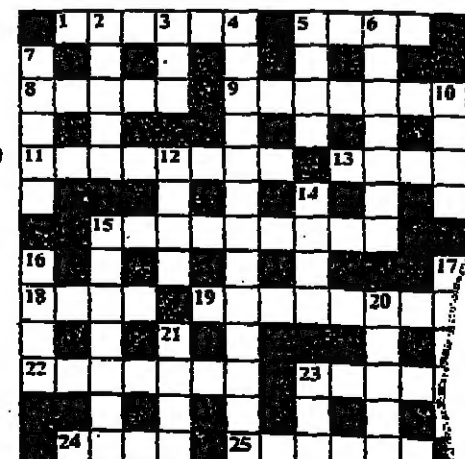
- 1 Snobbish (6)
- 5 Hurry (4)
- 8 Noblemen (3)
- 9 Misery (7)
- 11 Assiduous (8)
- 13 First man (4)
- 15 Copious supply (9)
- 18 Tree branch (4)
- 19 Climber (8)
- 22 Inorganic matter (7)
- 23 Quarrel (5)
- 24 Journey (4)
- 25 Colour (6)

DOWN

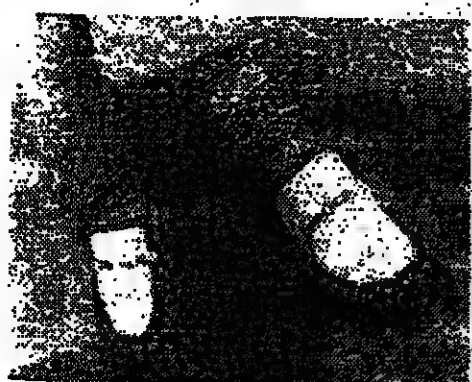
- 2 Peeled (5)
- 3 It is (3)
- 4 Instrument projection (4,2,7)
- 5 Fury (4)
- 6 Defiant (7)
- 7 Meaning (5)
- 10 Balge (4)
- 12 Crude person (4)
- 14 Before (4)
- 15 Social worker (7)
- 16 Mollusc (4)
- 17 Propaganda (5)
- 20 In hiding (5)
- 21 Cover (4)
- 23 Every one (3)

SOLUTION TO No 55

ACROSS: 1 Integration 9 America 10 Smock 11 Mrs 13 Grew 16 Coe 17 Outbid 18 None 20 Moot 21 Bodice 22 Rope 23 Tarn 25 Gem 26 Nuts 29 Eredivisie 30 Rambler rose
DOWN: 2 Niece 3 Erin 4 Room 5 Tass 6 Oloroso 7 Gas gangrene 8 Skeleton key 12 Raisin 14 Woe 15 At home 19 Naphtha 20 Met 24 Arise 25 Glib 26 Mere 27 Purr



FASHION by Suzy Menkes



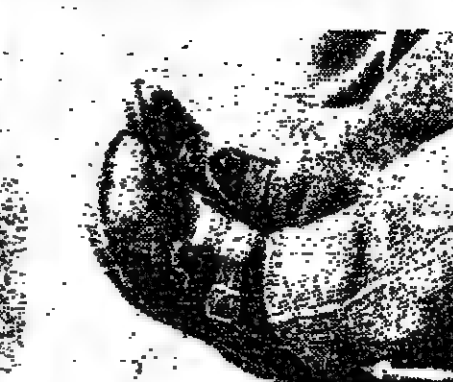
Above: Flamboyant feet. Two-tone navy and white slip-ons from Bally with Fair Isle socks. Right: Heavyweight high-ups. The laced shoe.



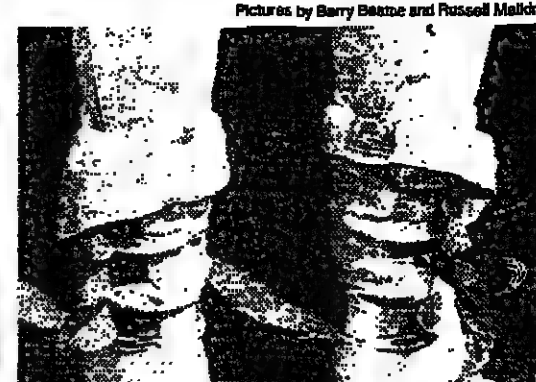
The fashionable tread. On the dance floor at the Camden Palace, grooved-soled Kickers, laced to the ankle. Worn with blue jeans.



Pastel blue soft suede loafers, bought from Hobbs and worn with dark peg-top trousers and white socks.



Above: Forever ethnic. Red leather sandals from the Natural Shoe Shop. Right: Hobo style boots from World's End.



Pictures by Barry Beazley and Russell Malhotra

You can now tell more about a man from the shape of his shoes than from the cut of his suit. Fashion-conscious young men are all wearing lace-ups, from the ubiquitous trainers to the low-cut laced pumps to the Oxford brogues that have taken over from slip-ons as international high fashion. They come punched or plain, mostly in leather.

If you are wearing slip-on shoes, they will be moccasins, or loafers, glove-soft, low-cut and occasionally still with a tasselled decoration. Tongues and vamp are all short.

Colour has come to shoes even in this rain-soaked spring, with pale suedes and sturdier neutral canvas a

background for another male flowering: the sock. With your smarter shoes, you are now wearing thicker socks, usually ribbed, often with a brushed or textured surface, mostly cotton, sometimes discreetly argyll patterned. The white sock is as chic as the white shoe.

But you might be putting fashionable feet first in quite a different way. Following on the skinhead cult of Doc Martens, now absorbed into fashion, there is a craze for

boots, especially the hobo buckled canvas boots from Worlds End or cuffed leather boots.

The buckle is the new style symbol in the pop world for the side-buckled, pointed-toed 1960s revival shoe. I counted four pairs in fewer minutes posing round the gallery tier at the Camden Palace last week. The Carnaby Street shop Melandri are bringing back these winkle-picker boots along with their Beatles jackets.

Shoes are now a badge of type and job. The caring and creative professions wear Kickers, sandals and Hush Puppies. Aspiring executives and genuine Sloane Rangers wear Gucci or Bally pumps. Rockers and fashion freaks wear two-tone co-respondent shoes. The alternative society does not clean its shoes.

But part of reactionary chic is the rediscovery of shoe polish. A whole generation that has seen its dads dismiss shoe cleaning as servile and bourgeois has taken up the brushes. If you are fashion-conscious and 20, this spring is Cherry Blossom time.

FEET FIRST



On the right track. Grey suede Hush Puppies for an architect who was cycling back from a workout with his client. Worn with his track suit trousers.



Above: Low life. Soft-leather moccasins cut low at the vamp from Ravel. With argyll socks. Right: A spot of porrier. The buckled boot at Camden Lock.



Above: Under canvas. Khaki lace-ups from S. Fisher in Covent Garden. Right: Co-respondent chic lace-ups.



Shoe shine. Dressy leather lace-ups with square-cut tongue bought in Italy. Ribbed socks. Fashion assistant Christine Pannell.

Roberto, a leading man of style

Roberto Devorik celebrated 10 years in the fashion business by squiring Liz Taylor to her New York premiere and introducing Jacqueline Bisset to the glamorous design world of Milan.

The show business connexion is appropriate, for if the fashion world's a stage, Roberto Devorik, with his dramatic Latin looks and rivers of charm, seems ideal casting for a male lead.

"The theatre is the world that fascinates me more than anything else", he says as we act out an English drawing room comedy among the Gainsborough blue chintz of his London home. "I would like the challenge to communicate".

He actually plays a supporting role, dressing elegant international customers with stylish international clothes. The tenth anniversary is for Régine in Bond Street, which, with his two Gianni Versace shops in London, is a celebration of Italian style. "My spaghetti", Roberto calls them fondly, although there must be a more luscious dish to describe the menu of famous names: Versace and Genny, Armani and Basile, Complice, Valentino and now Gianfranco Ferré, for whom Devorik plans to open a new shop.

His enthusiasm for Italian design is reflected in his own wardrobe and his choice of men's clothes for the shops. Here are the new Italian classics like the generous blouson and the slim-hipped straight-back suits. Here is the absorption with sensuous surfaces like glove-soft leather or textured knits; the accessories are laid out like sweetmeats in surprising and tempting colours. Customers include the humble who save up for one wonderful jacket as well as the wealthy and successful searching for status clothes.

Roberto Devorik himself mixes the different looks.

"I admire Versace above all and wear it a lot", he says. "But I break it with other things. Clothes must never rule you, and if you are too aware of them they lose their chicness".

He does not, he claims, buy for himself. "Fashion is feelings. When I am buying, I first think about what I like. Then I think about the trend, what the designer is trying to express. And I think it is a total error to market a shop with a particular man or woman in mind".

Two-thirds of his male customers are Englishmen in search of international style. In the women's shops it is the reverse, although Devorik admits that the elegant, fine-boned English woman - a Jackie Bisset - would be his ideal.

"The English woman is not fashion conscious, but she has an enormous respect for quality", he says. "When she buys good clothes, she puts them together in an unpolished way that is very attractive. It is like the shabbiness of the English country houses. They are as grand as palladian mansions or French chateaux, but in a different way. There is nothing more beautiful than an English home."



Above: Roberto Devorik wears Gianni Versace's soft leather blouson with buckled belt, madras check trousers, narrow collared shirt and tie all from Gianni Versace 37b Brook Street London W1. Above right: Tailored blazer jacket in dark madras checks by Cornuti. Basile khaki trousers, plain shirt and striped tie. All from Uomo Regine. Striped

His love affair with England ("we Latins are an emotional people") started when he arrived from Argentina 15 years ago at the age of 20 when his idea of fashion was buying cashmere sweaters. His introduction to real fashion he credits to his mother, who has a couture house in Buenos Aires based on the finest French fashions.

"I admire her taste enormously and she educated me into seeing France as the capital of the fashion world", he says. "I remember sitting on those little gold chairs seeing those beautiful frocks like some theatrical performance. It was when I took a holiday in Florence that I saw women wearing clothes that were not so demanding, not catwalk clothes. It is like comparing French and Italian cooking. French food is impeccable, but

after a week you have had enough of it."

In spite of his culinary tastes, Régine does carry some French designers, including Claude Montana and the American Bill Blass. Oscar de la Renta and belted designer extraordinary Lisandro Sarasola. But not one single English designer appears in this emporium of style, although there are a few at Régine in Los Angeles, run by Devorik's partner Semiramis Karacan.

"The only English designer I admire and respect is Jean Muir", says Devorik. "Her clothes have a lot of class and are perfectly made. I see more real fashion on the streets of London than among the designers. Perhaps it is a question of continuity. In Paris and Italy, they are such big empires they cannot afford to lose production. Other designers may be creative

for one season, after that it is better not to look. It is my proud boast that in 10 years I have never dropped a designer, only added to them."

Roberto Devorik is fierce and emotional with his loyalties. Liz Taylor, the unofficial "god-mother" of his Los Angeles shop, is not seen by everyone as a paradigm of style. He defends her fiercely.

"People say she is kitsch. That is irrelevant. She is beyond fashion. Like the Queen Mother, she has a style of her own."

He pays tribute to his staff. ("No retailer can be successful without a good cast working with him.") He is full of gratitude to his partner Semiramis. He praises his mother for supporting him when his father pushed him to work in business administration. He is grateful to the "wise, sensitive and



socks and ripped leather shoes by Versace. Below right: Khaki cotton knit sweater zipped at raglan shoulder seen by Gianfranco Ferré. Punch shirt and Basile trousers all from Uomo Regine 43/44 New Bond Street London W1. Hair by Kevin at Michael Johns. Photographs by NICK BRIGGS.

THE OTHER CHIC

Face it, watches can be witty

The Times features elegantly in yellow gold letters on an award winning watch at the Royal Society of Arts.

Mark Walker of Birmingham Polytechnic cashstrapped our masthead on the face of a witty watch (it has a fly-poster's ladder too), that was one of the fine jewelry winners in the 1982/83 RSA Design Bursaries competition.

The exhibition is open to the public (at 6-8 John Adams Street, London WC2 until May 27, not weekends) and shows a wealth of creative imagination throughout industry.

Averting my eyes from carpet designs and industrial lighting, I concentrated on the fashion areas, which include some interesting fashion jewelry ideas, like the colourful locker-key holders designed by Deborah Thomason of Ulster Polytechnic. They are a practical idea for sports enthusiasts and a stylish accessory for casual clothes.

Shoes seem to be the forte of Leicester Polytechnic, who followed a brief to submit designs for children's shoes and slippers for Clarks. I liked Ellspeth Robson's jigsaw puzzle print slipper with two pieces of puzzle as tassels on the tie. Julie Fuller's pink and white leather ballerina with a strap to hold it across the foot was a neat blend of the fashionable and the practical.

I have written already about Julia Witten (Brighton Polytechnic) whose woven cottons in sweet and muted colours won her an award at Fabrix. In the fabric section, the Jonathan Thorp award went to Nicos Efsthathiou of Brighton Poly for his striking knitwear, combining colour, pattern and texture in an interesting way. Martin Kidman (Brighton) won the Allan's of Duke Street sponsorship for his leather punched to look like lace and decorated with sequins.

I am too easily influenced by a fine graphic style to be a good judge of fashion as drawings alone. This year's RSA theme is for fashions inspired by a film, television or theatre and Christopher Horsfield (RCA) presented his Blade Runner outfits in a visually stunning way.

Fiddler on the Roof was the unexpected inspiration for some really good-looking outfits for Evans Outside by Sara Sturgeon of Ravensbourne and I liked Judith Leech's "Hamnet" designs in elegant 1930s style that won her the Courtauld's sponsorship. Sharon Peake (Ravensbourne) is a very interesting knitter who has won a British Knitting Export Council Award. Her textured and silky knits in soft 1930s shapes were inspired by the film *Five Days of Summer* and presented a fresh image of knitwear classics.

Thin-in with stout

The pressure to pursue the holy grail of health and fitness continues. Guinness, the brewers, launched a nationwide workout campaign for mass public participation last week that will tour Britain over the next six months.

The 60-minute exercise routine combines aerobic and stretching exercises and was devised by Bridget Woods, who went to California, saw the light and with missionary zeal opened the Fitness centre in Covent Garden (where else?). Fashion designer Bridget, aged 28, has designed a commercial range of lycra leotards, mesh vests and track suits in basic shapes that all carry either the "Guinness Workout" logo or the Toucan motif.

The word "stout" may be against them, but Guinness are keen to promote their product as a healthy low-calorie drink for women. They say that at 95 calories per half pint it compares favourably with unsweetened orange juice and contains vitamins and minerals such as potassium, calcium and magnesium.

However, when served with champagne as Black Velvet at their press reception, this refreshing stout had a rather more full-bodied feel to it.

The Guinness Workout tour begins at 3pm on Saturday at The Piazza, Covent Garden.

The Wednesday Page: War widows' rights; ignored Tory women

The gift of the Orient from Rosenthal Studio-haus

Chinese WOK



Wok cookery is now becoming the fashionable way of cooking. This classic 14" diameter piece of Chinese kitchen engineering comes as a complete 10 piece set - Wok - for £19.95 inclusive. Come and see the demonstration of WOK cookery by a Chinese chef in our showroom.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Vote winners

Having been inexorably bored by the preamble to the general election this far, I am determined that the campaign period itself shall be much better fun. To this end, and in the interests of true democracy, which consists in the protection and encouragement of minorities rather than the authoritarian rule of the majority, the Diary declares open house to parliamentary candidates of original and independent turn of mind. Party nominees need not apply, but I will gladly receive, and sympathetically review, the manifestos of those whom other less caring media might too lightly dismiss as nutters. As side attractions in this coming term of trial, I announce two competitions: one for the most unfulfillable promise uttered by any parliamentary candidate of whatever colour, and one for the most impenetrable piece of obfuscation to issue from the hustings. The usual prizes of bubbly are offered to readers who submit the winning entries, but there is nothing in it for the politicians - except votes.

Birthday millions

If one supposes that a new lease of life begins at 40, it is entirely appropriate that the general election on June 9 will fall precisely on the 40th birthday of Charles Saatchi, senior of the brothers who handle the Conservatives' advertising account. An election campaign in which the Conservatives will be placing some millions of pounds' worth of advertising seems almost excessively generous as a birthday present.

British Telecom has taken Margaret Thatcher's call for a return to Victorian values to heart. The phone kiosk at Berkhamsditch station has a new sign proclaiming its location as "the London and North Western Railway". Formed in 1846, the L&NWR ceased to exist in 1923.

Even more bull

Readers who have been inundating me with that word which means "the courting of seamen on an icebound ship" and who know about my newfound delight in obscure words, will not be surprised if I take this opportunity of recommending our politicians a spot of taghairm. This, as several correspondents have pointed out and the new Chambers dictionary confirms, is "inspiration sought by lying in a bullock's hide behind a waterfall." A bit more of it and this country might never have come to this present pass.

Dead cert

A bit of a cropper for the racing supplement in the current *Harpers and Quercy*. The form guide fancied a horse called Alverton as a possible Derby winner, and shows the creature in mid-jump. True, it won the 1979 Cheltenham Gold Cup, notorious for high fences, but the Derby is a suckless affair. The guide is compiled by one David Hedges, which may have something to do with it. Oh yes, one other thing: Alverton is dead.

Song of hope

On his eightieth birthday this Thursday Sir Lennox Berkeley will be working on a new opera, his first since 1966. He tells me that although Lord Harewood at the ENO is being very understanding about it, he himself is impatient to get it finished. "These days you have to book singers so long in advance that we shall all be dead by the time it is put on." The opera is called *Falden Park* and is a saga of a house and its occupants. Meanwhile the BBC is proposing to revive his forgotten 30-year-old opera on Nelson.

The laundry lists in the Pegasus Hotel in Guyana bear the notice: "We are not responsible for bleeding colours."

Gourmet corner

Congratulations to the PHSybarite who enjoyed the Spanish trip home last week. The Spanish-English label read: "Contains beef tripe, snouts, boneless paws, spices etc." This makes it all the more surprising to see something else thrown up in my mailbox, a report on the Spanish export of food and drinks which starts: "In 1981, agricultural exports showed a very favourable evolution. It may be tripe, but it turns out well."

Brush-off

Howard Hibbard, whose study of the painter-assassin Caravaggio is published this month by Thames and Hudson, admits he originally approached his subject from a standpoint of complete ignorance. When he first saw the name Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio written on a University of Wisconsin blackboard, Hibbard remembers, he thought "So that was Michelangelo's real name."

A great chicken hunt is afoot in Kensington Gardens. The poultry population there is mounting, although two dozen hens have been caught by park officials and carted off to the RSPCA in recent weeks. Most recently a cock was recaptured in an enclosure near the bandstand in Hyde Park. He has been retired to a farm at Wallingford. Some say the birds have been bought at market and dumped in the parks, while others think they have been sprung from battery farms. Either way, it smacks of fowl play.

PHS

Barry Fantoni is on holiday

Stop this nuclear blackmail

by Lord Harris of Greenwich

Thousands of people are about to be penalized by CND. Their offence: the companies they work for have been awarded Ministry of Defence contracts at Greenham Common. CND wants to deny these companies - and therefore all who work for them - the right to obtain public works contracts. The instruments it has chosen are left-wing Labour councils, who will be asked to follow the example of the London Borough of Southwark and blacklist the Greenham Common contractors and subcontractors.

I believe that this action is unlawful. I do not consider that a council can, by resolution, debar companies from the right to tender on equal terms with competitors solely because they have undertaken work of which the council may disapprove. It would, in effect, be seeking to induce the contractors to break their contracts with the government.

However, despite the fact that Southwark Council adopted this policy last December, and called on other authorities to do the same, it has not been challenged in the courts. One reason is that some sub-contractors fear that the price of a victory in the courts would be a blacklisting by more sophisticated methods. For example, council committee chairmen might use their powers to exclude the company concerned from the

list of contractors invited by the council to tender for a particular public contract.

I hope that the more balanced critics of the present government's defence policies will hesitate before encouraging such conduct. Once this kind of precedent is established, where precisely will it end? What other kind of contract may incur the disapproval of local authorities?

And what about the interests of the ratepayers should one of the Greenham contractors submit the lowest tender for a contract and it is rejected in favour of a higher? Southwark has, indeed, taken just such action in the past, when it rejected the lowest tender for one contract because the company had displeased it during a privatization dispute in a neighbouring borough.

The defence put forward on Southwark council's behalf is that it is representing the clearly expressed wishes of its electorate. That is untrue. At the last local elections, the present Labour majority on the council had the backing of 43.7 per cent of those who voted, compared with the 52.7 per cent who voted either for the SDP-Liberal Alliance or the Conservatives. Only our absurd first-past-the-post electoral system gave Labour its overwhelming majority on the council.

The Government is in a nasty dilemma. It cannot possibly permit punitive action to

be taken against its own contractors. On the other hand, unless it initiates action in the courts, it will be driven to consider taking new legislative powers to intervene in the affairs of local government. Even if the present government were to be re-elected, this would certainly be contentious; a policy of still greater intervention in local government would provoke much ill-will among many Conservative councillors. The system would also be costly to administer.

This dispute is just one more example of the price being paid for the take-over of many local authorities by the militant left. In 1960, during Labour's last convulsions over nuclear disarmament, CND made no similar appeal to Labour councils because it knew it would have been rejected out of hand, even by many councillors who agreed with its views on nuclear weapons.

Now there is a new generation of Labour leaders on the GLC, in Southwark, Islington, Lambeth, Hackney and on many authorities outside London, often contemptuous of the rule of law, indifferent to the financial consequences of their own behaviour, determined to use local government simply as a propaganda platform against the Government.

The author was Minister of State at the Home Office in the 1974-79 Labour government. He is now in the SDP.

Security v freedom to report: the debate reopens

A Falkland factor Israel has taken to heart

Jerusalem

David Kimche, director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, "My attitude towards Britain's handling of media coverage of the Falklands campaign was one of envy that they could get away with it".

Anonymous naval commander with the Falklands task force speaking to Michael Nicholson of ITN: "If I had my way, we would tell people nothing until the war is over. After that, we would tell them who won".

Last year's bloody war in Lebanon, the sixth Arab-Israeli confrontation, and Britain's battle against Argentina in the South Atlantic had little in common apart from the fact that months after the dust of battle has settled, the role of television and the press in both conflicts is still the subject of fierce controversy.

While the Israelis feel bitterly that distorted TV coverage of their invasion of Lebanon and subsequent siege of West Beirut has done, in the words of Dr Kimche, "irreparable damage to the country", British and international journalists are still fuming at the way reporting of the Falklands war was manipulated and restricted by the government.

If it were just another case of hurt journalistic pride over the Falklands, or another example of Israeli paranoia about external criticism of the Lebanese invasion, the issues would be of only limited interest to the world at large. But there are strong indications that the experience of the two main wars of 1982 may yet set a precedent for the way in which the media is treated, and behaves, in future conflicts in Europe, the Middle East and further afield. In Israel, there is unstinted official admiration for the way in which the Thatcher government severely limited access to the fighting, yet won a generally favourable world press for its efforts on the battlefield.

The twin issues were subjected to joint scrutiny last week when journalists and academics from 22 countries gathered in the neutral surroundings of the Jerusalem Hilton to take part in the first "international workshop on the media in wars and their aftermaths", with special reference to the fighting in the Falklands, Lebanon and Vietnam.

The jealousy of the Israelis towards Britain (bedged with frequent tut-tutting references to the have limitations on the



Above, the aftermath of an Israeli air attack on Lebanon - the kind of picture that many Israeli officials would like to suppress. Below, one of the few Falklands pictures that British service chiefs were happy to see published - the Argentine surrender.



"freedom of expression" would not be permitted in Israel) was demonstrated in a forceful video presentation compiled by Mr Yehoshua Levy, a senior member of the propaganda arm of the Foreign Ministry.

Mr Levy had acquired film on the surrender of Fort Stanely and on the Israeli armoured push northwards to Beirut made within a few weeks of each other by the same reporter, Tom Fenton of America's CBS network. Shown back to back, they reinforced Israel's repeated claim that it was hard done by.

Because of the deliberate prohibition on live film from the South Atlantic, much of the Falklands report consisted of animated graphics and references to the "cour-

teprais against colleagues then based in besieged Beirut.

Dr Kimche disclosed - to the obvious concern of the Israel-based correspondents present - that the Israeli Government was now asking itself "some very painful questions", primarily whether Israel should in future try to limit "this damage and act like the British in the Falklands, by shutting the place off to journalists and saying: 'To hell with democratic values'".

The enormous imbalance between the comparatively mild restrictions imposed by the Israelis on reporting the war in Lebanon and those enforced by the British was backed up by the personal experiences of the senior journalists present.

Michael Nicholson, the award-winning ITN reporter, spoke eloquently about how his Ministry of Defence "minder" had informed him pointedly that it was his task to do a "1940 propaganda job" and of the hostility displayed towards British reporters travelling with the task force once it became clear they were prepared to report the bad as well as the good news.

He explained that it was a deliberate attempt by the British authorities to muzzle news film rather than the daunting technical difficulties which had meant that some of his despatches had taken longer to reach London than the 20-day time gap between Russell's filing his account of the charge of the Light Brigade and its reaching *The Times*.

All of this was apparently sweet music to the ears of Israeli officials. It reminded me painfully of the way in which Britain's attitude towards press coverage of the Falklands war has effectively castigated any protest. A British war correspondent may make about his or her treatment at the hands of a foreign government.

When I complained last June to an Israeli major about the complete lack of access to the front line, he merely laughed and remarked - with some justification: "Just how near do you think Mrs Thatcher would be to let a reporter get to the fighting in the Falklands?"

Christopher Walker

Why the Swedes must sink a sub

Panic has no place in the Swedish sub, but the continuing intrusions by Soviet submarines into Swedish waters are causing deeper anxiety in Stockholm than has been felt since the Second World War. After 12 days of search around Sundsvall people still turn on the television news with a Falklandian excitement.

It is not compassion or popular pacifism which has prevented a submarine being hit so far. The widespread desire to hit back is fuelled by the ignominy of the continuing intrusions, but it is not simply a question of military failure.

The intrusions undermine the cornerstone of Swedish foreign and defence policy; the credibility of Sweden's neutrality.

It is essential that Sweden convinces the superpowers that it will not join one side or the other in time of tension or war, but will fiercely defend its own territory if attacked. If this policy fails it is vulnerable. The submarine incidents imply that the Russians do not appear to believe that Sweden will remain, or be allowed to remain, neutral in a crisis. They may even believe that Sweden is already a crypto Nato member. According to this theory, they feel the need to spy out the Swedish coastline with a view to occupying it or denying it to Nato forces if there was a war.

Sweden's neutrality has kept it out of wars for some 170 years. Unlike Switzerland or Austria, Sweden's neutrality is not guaranteed by

international treaty or enshrined in the constitution.

The porcupine defence policy reinforced the themes of neutrality, independence and self-reliance. At present 70 per cent of the armed forces' equipment is made in Sweden at a very much higher cost than the equivalent bought elsewhere. Defence policy has been based on a well equipped professional army backed up by a home guard involving the whole population. The navy received only 15 per cent of the defence budget last year.

Mr Sven Andersson, the former Defence Minister, who chaired a commission on the submarine intrusions, admits the policy was wrong and that it has failed. The figures in his recently published report show that it has been failing for some time. Intrusions by foreign, presumably Soviet, submarines go back at least as far as 1962. There were three or four incidents listed as probable in most years until 1982 when 18 were listed. In all, there have been 143 probable and possible incidents since 1962.

The government is now trying to find ways of stopping the intrusions. New regulations are being introduced on July 1 which permit the navy to destroy foreign intruders in certain circumstances. In the meantime the navy must consult the Prime Minister first. Mr Olof Palme will not be precise about the circumstances in which he would

give his permission to destroy an intruder, but privately government officials say that Sweden will have to kill a submarine to get the message across to the Russians.

This may not prove easy. Sweden has 1,500 miles of coastline to watch, much of it speckled with hundreds of tiny islands and inlets. The water in the Baltic is complicated by varying temperature and salinity levels, needing specially designed sonar and hydrophone equipment.

The government is to spend Kr250m (£21m) on building four new helicopters, giving the navy 14 anti-submarine helicopters. It is also fitting out patrol boats with listening devices and equipment to search the sea bed and will install listening devices along the most sensitive stretches of coastline.

Contrary to Sweden's policy of extraordinarily open government, the press is not being given details of latest developments in the current submarine hunt. Previously the government has been accused of trying to chase the submarines away by publicity. It has also been accused of letting the submarine go last October.

The commission firmly rejected this suggestion. The navy could have destroyed the intruding submarine then, but sought to frighten it to the surface, something never achieved by any country in peacetime. Now the navy is being equipped with new

"incident" torpedoes which seek out propellers and are armed with a small warhead designed to cripple a submarine and force it to surface.

The Russians' motives still baffles the Swedish government. One theory is that the Russian military is operating outside political control and conducting the manoeuvres, possibly laying navigational beacons, unconcerned by the political price of discovery. Other military theories suggest that the Russians find Swedish waters particularly tricky and therefore ideal for training and testing new equipment.

Political motives are hard to find. Diplomatic sources in Stockholm wonder if the Russians are seeking to let the world know that they regard the Baltic as theirs, or if they want to provoke Sweden into dividing up the Baltic between them. No one is very convinced. A third theory is that Moscow wants to create tension in the region by exposing the weakness of Swedish defence policy.

Whatever part bluff played in this policy has now been called and the Swedish government must stop the intrusions if it is to maintain credibility. The time may soon come when the Swedes, who have scarcely fired a shot in anger for nearly two centuries, may find dead Russian sailors floating by their shores.

Richard Dowden

Geoffrey Smith

Pitfalls on the path to a second term

"I wish the election was today", said Mr Tony Benn to BBC radio on Sunday. It was a pardonable piece of political extravagance. But if the election could be held this week there can be scarcely any doubt that the Conservatives would romp home by a comfortable margin. So the campaign for them will simply be something to be got through safely: the more that people continue to think the same about familiar issues, the better it will suit the Government.

For Labour and the Alliance, however, the campaign will be an opportunity to bring fresh issues to the top of the agenda. The experiences of 1970 and February 1974 are a reminder that the public mood can change dramatically in the course of a few intense weeks. If the voters had been as impressed with Mr Harold Wilson's performance at the end of the 1970 campaign as they were at the beginning, Mr Heath would never have entered Downing Street. Having got there, he would probably have stayed in February 1974 if the Conservatives had been able to keep public attention focused throughout the campaign on the single issue of the miners' strike.

So are there any hidden rocks on which the Conservative campaign might be wrecked this time? What are the issues that Labour and/or the Alliance should be striving to bring to the forefront? Unemployment will not serve this purpose so long as so many people do not believe that the present level of joblessness is the Government's fault but a form of economic plague from which all western countries are suffering.

Nor does Labour stand to gain much from a disarmament crusade. A large majority of British people are opposed to unilateral nuclear disarmament, so the more that Mr Foot generalizes the issue - which is his instinct - the worse he is likely to do. He will fare better if he concentrates attention upon the siting of cruise missiles in this country, even though a MORI poll for BBC's *Panorama* last night showed that there is no longer a majority against deployment. But the more precise that Labour leaders become about defence policy, the more they are liable to expose the differences between them. So defence is dangerous for Labour.

Europe perhaps? The difficulty here for Labour is not just that the MORI poll now shows a minute majority against withdrawal from the Community. It is simply that, whatever the polls may suggest about British preferences, it will be hard for any other party to convince the voters that it would stand up for British interests more effectively than Mrs Thatcher would in dealing with Brussels. If she happens to have a public row with her European

partners over the Community budget shortly before the election here so much the better for her.

But there are two possible pitfalls for the Conservatives that can be seen in advance. One is that they might rely excessively upon Mrs Thatcher. That she is a considerable electoral asset is beyond dispute. But, despite appearances, British general elections are more about popularity contests between the rival party leaders.

Indeed, throughout the postwar years those parties which have depended upon the popularity of their leader have invariably lost. The Conservatives were not defeated in 1945 because Winston Churchill had ceased to be popular but because they seemed to be little beyond his popularity. Lost in 1970 when their campaign became a Wilsonian persona parade. In 1979 Labour strategists based their plans largely on Callaghan's personal appeal.

The Conservatives could not unstick this time if they give the impression of simply seeking a vote of confidence in Mrs Thatcher. At least some of her advisers are well aware of the need to fight a campaign of substance.

The other possible pitfall for the Conservatives would be if they appeared to be wanting to dismantle the welfare state. The political risk of giving the wrong impression may be all the greater for them because they do not seem to have worked out precisely what they do want in this field.

They should be on safe political ground in so far as they are just seeking to enlarge the opportunities for people to provide for their own needs in health care, education and social security. But they risk trouble if they give the impression of threatening the state system in the process. Some of Mrs Thatcher's advisers are well aware that many Conservative voters send their children to state schools, use the National Health Service and are depending upon state pensions.

So we shall not hear much during the campaign about school vouchers or replacing student grants with loans. The Conservatives will take pride in the resources devoted to the NHS. The one potential difficulty will be over pensions. Will ministers be able to avoid repeating the pledge that they gave in 1979 to preserve the real value of pensions? They do not want to give such a commitment without knowing what the rate of inflation will be and therefore what burden they would be placing upon public expenditure for the lifetime of the next government. But many Conservative voters will want such a promise. If it is given we shall know that the party is beginning to be worried.

Roger Scruton

Over the polls, a hint of Big Brother

The visitor to the "socialist" about its evil purposes. It alone is responsible for the present unemployment. It has "engineered" an "unprecedented rate of industrial decline" (Merlyn Rees). It has destroyed more of British industry than the Luftwaffe (Peter Shore). Perhaps it is the Luftwaffe, in some new invisible form. At any rate, it is a "cold, blind, unrelenting callousness" and a "vast, lumbering, amorphous propaganda machine" (Michael Foot).

And its effects are not felt only by the unemployed. Brynmor John reminds us that "the greatest blot on our society is the way we treat children and their parents, whether employed or in receipt of social security". In plain English, we are all in the soup. There is no salvation for any of us, short of the "irreversible" transformation that we are promised when we shall at last be rid of the monetarist oppressor.

I suppose there are some who feel a certain nostalgia for this kind of language, and who long to hear again its tracing tones. But is it a language worthy of the Labour Party? I doubt it, and not only because this "monetarist" enemy is so elusive and so abstract a fiction.

As our authors remind us, the Labour Party is a democratic party, committed to parliamentary government. Despite Eric Heffer's assertion that "socialism and democracy are indivisible", the Labour Party admits that non-socialists may sometimes have a right to rule. A democratic party is destined to govern people at least half of whom disagree with it. It is committed to accept that no change that it initiates is or ought to be "irreversible". It is surely a poor beginning to its election campaign that it should describe its opponent as the enemy of a people who elected her, and who are likely to elect her again.

It is one of the major claims of this "enemy" that not everything which happens in the public sphere is the responsibility of government. Some bad things just happen but because they cannot be prevented by any reasonable measures. The statist mentality of the Labour Party is such that it cannot really accept this claim. All public happenings, it believes, are really actions of the government. The state already has that vast and unassailable power over human destiny that the Labour Party wishes on it. This is no doubt why the authors feel no compulsion to give either coherent theories or detailed policies. Since everything that has recently happened is the "doing" of the monetarist enemy, it is enough to "do" the opposite. If anyone asks "how?" one answer alone is given: by increasing public expenditure. And if anyone asks "how?" he will not receive a "how?" answer, for it is he who must pay.

The author is Editor of *The Salisbury Review*.

The most striking feature of these chapters is that, with few honourable exceptions, the authors punctuate their vague and unreasoned promises with the most violent invective, against something called now "monetarism", now "Thatcherism". This enemy is never clearly defined. But we are to make no mistake



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE ANVIL OF ARGUMENT

Free and fair elections lie at the very heart of parliamentary democracy. The secret ballot has an inherent unpredictability about it which courses through the body politic, disturbing Ministerial complacency, and exciting political imaginations. It is a form of procedural crisis in a system whose democratic freedoms are necessarily enshrined and guaranteed by procedure. That unpredictability may have been somewhat reduced by opinion polls, but not entirely eliminated so it is a risk Mrs Thatcher has taken now - a calculated risk, maybe, but still a risk.

It is a risk which the vast majority of governments in the world never take, and never have to take. For that fact, and for the freedom of political choice which lies behind it, the British voter should be thankful.

The cynic might say that all elections are now predictable, given a government's ability to manipulate the economy, or the press or television. He would be wrong. The record of Britain's post-war elections proves him wrong. But that is not the only evidence of the welcome unpredictability of British elections. The reason they remain unpredictable is because a parliamentary election - for all its party razzmatazz - remains based on the individual. It is not about block votes like the Labour Party's so-called democracy. It is not vulnerable to the waywardness of trade union barons, or wheeled and dealing in smoke-filled committee rooms. The election reflects the aggregate common sense of 40 million voters acting as individuals in

the confessional privacy of a ballot box.

It is therefore about genuine choice, and an individual's power to choose, which is the basis of all freedom. Choice, moreover, is at the root of all morality. True democracy, therefore, is a highly psychological institution which must take account of human nature and human responsibility to participate in political argument.

So there must be no muffling of the issues. At the start of a general election campaign we must recognize that political life is a conflict of ideas. It is a domestic quarrel with agreed limits of the law and the constitution. Our parliamentary democracy is rightly in a chronic state of mitigated civil war, with society's internal differences recognized and rehearsed through the adversarial system of parliamentary argument. An election is thus merely a moment for taking stock of all the arguments which have been rehearsed piecemeal throughout the previous parliament, and will be again rehearsed under the same rule when the electorate, having intervened to express its view, goes back to its business.

In explaining why she had called an election yesterday, the Prime Minister said that uncertainty had become intolerable. Sadly, in the last ten days that has indeed been so, though it would have been possible earlier to stanch the speculation and carry on governing without the need to lose some important legislation and blunt the edge of British diplomacy at forthcoming summit meetings.

However these are technical matters which recede in import-

ance now that the election is to be joined. There are only three probable results - a second term for a Conservative government, a Labour administration under Mr Foot, or a hung parliament. Of these three, the only reasonably clear picture which we have is the first, since a hung parliament would inevitably produce a period of parliamentary instability, and, to judge by the rhetoric of Labour's *New Hope for Britain* a Foot administration would seek to overturn the post-war structure of British politics and diplomacy more thoroughly and more dangerously than anything hitherto contemplated.

The issues are thus refreshingly clear. They will naturally benefit from the anvil of argument on which they will be hammered out between now and June 9th. That argument should be conducted on the basis of fair dealing and fair-hearing. The two major parties, for instance, should feel confident enough of their positions not to begrudge the Alliance equal time in such a small matter as the party political broadcasts, on which little enough will depend.

Beyond that the argument should be based on rigour, not rancour; explanation, not exaggeration; policies, not personalities. In preparing for the polls, politicians and their listeners would do worse than to heed the injunction of St Augustine, who said: "In necessities, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity." A basically united people untroubled by its differences, free with its doubts, and fair with its arguments, would then do justice to democracy.

1983 IS NOT 1968

Les événements de mai... or "springtime in Paris". Students marching in the streets. Molotov cocktails, tear-gas, baton charges. The president away on a state visit, to a communist country noted for its independence from the Soviet Union. The prime minister makes a spectacular concession to the students, while other discontented social groups join in the fray. The parliamentary opposition hesitates, anxious to exploit the government's unpopularity but afraid to play into its hands by seeming to encourage a threat to law and order.

Are we watching a re-run of a fifteen-year-old film? Has President Mitterrand, on the second anniversary of his election, already burnt out to the same extent that de Gaulle had by the tenth anniversary of the Treize Mai? Could he like de Gaulle, suddenly turn the situation to account by calling a snap election and winning a new landslide majority?

The answers must be no, no and no. Such apparent similarities are beguiling, but almost always misleading. France of 1983 is not that of 1968. Mitterrand is not de Gaulle. Right and left are not interchangeable.

Two months before May 1968, the late Pierre Vianson-Ponté wrote an article in *Le Monde*, later hailed as prophetic, under the headline "France is bored". Nothing was happening. De Gaulle having ended the Algerian war, taken France out of NATO and imposed his will on the European Community, had achieved his main objectives and

was reduced to sniping at America's behaviour in Vietnam or trying to stir up trouble in Quebec. At home he was reduced to ceremonial appearances little better than the "inauguration of chrysanthemums" he had once spurned as symbolising a presidency without powers.

Economically France was getting steadily more prosperous. There was full employment and workers saw no reason to put up with low wages or authoritarian management. Students, vexed by the smugness of the regime and the conformism of their elders, were taunted by *Le Figaro* with finding nothing better to complain about than segregation in halls of residence. A revamped Marxism was still fashionable; the caution and immobility of the powerful Communist Party seemed a provocation in itself.

France today is disgruntled and unhappy, but hardly bored. Instead of being straitlaced and smug, the government carries informality to the point of incoherence. Unemployment has fallen slightly but is still over two million, and the finance minister has warned that his austerity measures will put it up by another hundred thousand. Even before those measures were announced OECD had predicted that it would worsen by 150,000 to 200,000 between now and early next year "after marking time temporarily".

That is not a climate which makes workers love their government. Nor, however, is it one that favours a general strike. Nor would the big trade unions be likely to encourage one, as they did in 1968. Despite their

grievances they remain committed to the left, and on May Day they marched in support of the government.

The same economic climate affects the attitudes of students. In France as in other countries the vogue of politicisation and rebelliousness in universities has long since passed. Students today are worried principally about graduating and qualifying for jobs. Their anger is focused on government proposals which would weed out many of them before they got as far as their final exams.

Shopkeepers and other self-employed businessmen are the traditional malcontents of post-war France, fighting an endless rearguard action against the combined pressures of competition from bigger business and a state which persists in trying to collect taxes. Farmers likewise take on Paris grievances that are really directed at Brussels - that is, at a Community from which they benefit, but whose principles deny them a competitive advantage when the franc is devalued.

France can always surprise us, but as yet it is hard to see these disparate grievances coalescing into a movement that could really shake a government with an overwhelming parliamentary majority and three years' mandate to run. If anything France today is more reminiscent of Britain fifteen years ago than of herself in 1968. Luckily she is rich enough to afford a few years of Wilsonian floundering. Luckily her President cuts a more impressive figure on the world stage than Sir Harold ever did.

COMMON SENSE AND CONTRACEPTION

Post-coital contraception, the subject of a publicity campaign launched by the Family Planning Association yesterday, would be regarded by some as a contradiction in terms: the process is not one of preventing conception itself, but of preventing a fertilised egg (if there is one) from becoming implanted in the wall of the womb. It is therefore strictly a kind of abortion but one not contemplated in the framing of the 1967 Act. Whether it is in accordance with the law of God or with the law of the land are two questions almost equally speculative.

The procedure has received wide publicity, however, and it is likely to grow more common. Pending an undisputed resolution of one or both questions, it is desirable at least that doctors should be well informed about how and when to resort to it. The FPA's brief guide is a purely technical summary, and offers only cursory guidance on the complex and necessary issue of counselling.

Birth control after coition is not from any point of view as satisfactory a method as contraception beforehand. There is a theoretical risk that it may succeed only in harming, not preventing, the development of an embryo. It is recommended only for occasions such as rape or what the FPA calls "unpre-

meditated intercourse regretted immediately", where the chance of the patient already being pregnant is remote.

The ethics and legalities of the matter are left to the doctor and the patient. The recent extended correspondence in our own columns is evidence enough that there is no uniformity of opinion on these problems. On the ethics there probably never will be. Although the ethical dilemma has been present ever since the intra-uterine device came into use (because it works, or may work, by preventing implantation) statute has never taken account of it. The Abortion Act refers to pregnancy as to something ascertained, and would apply awkwardly to the situation where there could be no certainty before or after that a pregnancy ever existed. The *Offences Against the Person Act 1861* does cover attempts to procure the miscarriage of a possible pregnancy, and it is a matter of dispute whether or not the common law also protects an embryo before the much later stage of "quickening".

The argument for or against post-coital contraception is distinct from the argument for or against abortion. Abortion is widely accepted today as acceptable under the safeguards laid down by the Act. But no "social

clause", however notional in practice, covers the use of the procedures described by the FPA. Some supporters have tried not very felicitously to argue that the effective beginning of life is not fertilisation at all, but implantation, and that before that point there is no "carriage", and therefore no miscarriage. But a unique human entity does come into existence at fertilisation, and those who hold that it instantly has a right to all the protection that society accords to a baby after birth will never be persuaded by such casuistics. Those who find it ethically unacceptable not to take level of development into account when weighing the claims of an adult woman and her family against those of a not yet conscious foetus will never accept that uniqueness is the only relevant factor. On balance there seems more common sense, and more humanity in the latter view. But it should be clear to both sides that legal doctrines, framed in an age when obstetrical knowledge was very limited and never tested in court in modern times, should not be invoked now against the application of a medical principle which in essence has been openly practised without restraint for many years. If society wants to stop it or restrain it, Parliament should legislate.

Third World aid in perspective

From Professor Lord Bauer, FBA, and Professor Basil Yamey, FBA

Sir, We cannot here reply to all the points raised in the correspondence commenting on our article (April 11). But some clarifications may be helpful.

As we made clear, we were discussing official aid and neither private capital flows nor the work of charitable organizations. As is generally understood, official aid consists of transfers from government to government, directly or through official international organizations. We were certainly not arguing that personal contributions to charities should be reduced. Non-politicised charities have achieved good results in the Third World.

We did not deny that specific projects financed by aid could be highly productive; and the recital of such instances does not affect our analysis. Are our critics implying that these projects would not have been undertaken without aid? If so, this would be a serious reflection on the priorities and preferences of aid-recipient governments. In any case, most of them restrict the inflow of private resources, the short supply of which in their own countries is said to be the justification for official aid.

What is the "binding cement" that unifies the Third World (letter, April 18) other than organized pressure for aid? For instance, it cannot be such matters as multinationalism, colonialism or the terms of trade. The poorest countries and regions within the Third World not surprisingly have few or no external contacts and several have not been colonies.

It is obvious that the inflow of official aid increases total spending in the recipient countries (letters, April 14). The substantive point is, however, whether this necessarily promotes development or relieves poverty. This is what we considered. The receipt of official aid (or of government revenues from the development of domestic natural resources) neither ensures economic advance nor the amelioration of the lot of the poorest. We explained why the former has so often had adverse effects in the Third World.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BAUER,
BASIL YAMEY,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
May 7.

Female of the species

From Dr R. G. A. Buxton

Sir, It was very kind of Philip Howard to notice (April 29) some work which I have been doing on classical wolves and werewolves. I hope he won't mind if I am mischievous enough to take him to task on one point. It does occasionally happen that female werewolves are recorded.

In his *German Mythology* Grimm tells a story of a woman who, in spite of her poverty, served up meat for her husband at every meal. He was curious; she said she would reveal her secret provided he did not utter her name. They went into the fields, and she seized a sheep, but the shepherd ran after her. Terrified for her safety, the husband cried out "Ach Margarete!" There, once more, stood his wife in human form. No more free mutton chops; but love conquers all.

On the whole, though, they preferred to turn into cats. Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BUXTON,
University of Bristol,
Department of Classics and Archaeology,
Wills Memorial Building,
Queens Road,
Bristol,
April 29.

A searching look

From Mr Brian O'Dowd

Sir, Dervla Murphy's suspicions (April 28) about security checks at ports of entry to Britain and anti-nuclear badges are probably correct. A very frequent traveller between Ireland and Britain, I was stopped for a security check on the first occasion I wore a CND badge. Suspecting a connection, I did a small controlled trial on a dozen consecutive arrivals at Fishguard. When wearing a CND badge I was stopped for a security check four times out of six. Without it, I was stopped but once in six arrivals. The difference appears significant. Yours etc,
BRIAN O'DOWD,
20 Upper Mallow Street,
Limerick,
Republic of Ireland,
April 30.

Desirable residence

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, I did not have the chance of talking to Mr D. E. Young (April 27) and the "think tank" team which looked at Britain's overseas representation in 1976. I would have given a firm "yes" in reply to the question to which he says everyone else answered "no": does the influence which foreign governments exert on British policy depend much, if at all, on the style in which their diplomats live in London?

The question is, of course, a trick question. What is style? Location, size and accessibility are the important considerations, and style is largely a consequence of these. The distinguished British guests who frequent the London embassies of Britain's allies and partners, say, in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conservative attitude on nuclear force

From Mr Anthony Verrier

Sir, I had the opportunity recently in Suffolk to county not notably antagonistic to Mrs Thatcher or sympathetic towards the Soviet Union) of discussing nuclear issues with supporters and members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. None of these people could be described as other than conservative in their domestic politics. But they opposed the installation of cruise missiles in the United Kingdom. Given that Suffolk is already stuffed with nuclear weapons, their opposition is understandable.

Moreover, the positive arguments of these conservatives struck me as eminently sane - namely:

1. Minimum deterrence, put the Duke of Edinburgh, means the capacity of the United States and Soviet Union to inflict unacceptable damage on each other in a retaliatory, not a pre-emptive, strike. This mutual deterrence has existed for a generation and is not improved by adding to nuclear arsenals or impaired if one superpower has a measurable "superiority" in a particular category of weapons.

2. Nuclear war could never be won by accident or miscalculation, by a failure of intelligence (in the technical sense) or communication. The 1962 hot line is an inadequate communications channel and both the US and the Soviet Union require to support it by other means.

3. Neither Britain nor France has nuclear weapons which add anything to superpower deterrence. Their sole validity rests on the presumption that the Soviet Union has designs on these two countries and would use nuclear weapons to prosecute them. But even if one accepts this proposition (which surely reflects an exaggerated concept of British or French status in the nuclear context), it remains a fact of geography for Britain, not politics or morale, that any Soviet strike against us would inflict vastly

more damage than we could inflict in either a pre-emptive or a retaliatory strike.

Doubtless the Soviet Union has designs on Britain. Our nuclear weapons do not deter them. More than three million unemployed is a far more potent weapon, put gratuitously in the hands of this hostile superpower, than our trivial nuclear armory.

4. Phasing out Britain's nuclear weapons - and adding to our conventional forces in the process - would not affect US nuclear strategy nor impair relations within NATO. Britain was adequately protected by the US deterrent, in the context of a "general war", before 1957, when a crude, first-strike British system became operational.

Since 1957, US administrations have never shown the slightest positive enthusiasm for the British systems. US support in terms of missiles and components has been entirely governed by the development of a retaliatory system. But what British government would, nay could, order such a strike after we had been stricken by even a limited Soviet offensive?

Therefore, there is no strategic validity in the British "deterrent". It is a weapon of prestige, clear at the price, diminishing resources which should be committed to genuine national defence, in which all but a small minority in this country believe.

In getting on for 30 years' study of these matters I have never been a supporter or member of CND. Nor am I now, because its leadership has always lamentably failed to discuss national defence. But the arguments summarised here remain valid, and no amount of rhetoric by Government spokesmen destroys them.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY VERRIER,
1 Nicolson Road,
Wandsworth, SW18,
May 5.

Third-party issue

From Mr H. V. Hodson

Sir, Your correspondence about the constitutional position in the event of a hung Parliament has been, for the most part, misconceived in that it has been binger rather than the right of a prime minister to demand a dissolution rather than the duty of the Monarch to accept or reject such advice, which is the nub of the matter.

According to long-established principle of our unwritten Constitution it is the Queen's duty to accept the advice of her ministers on matters within their constitutional competence, after offering such warning as she may think proper. It is likewise her duty to accept the advice of her prime minister on a dissolution of Parliament when the government enjoys a majority in the House of Commons, or, less imperatively, when having enjoyed a majority it loses it for whatever reason. But when the government has not had a majority after a general election her duty is far less plain and absolute.

To dissolve or not to dissolve is not then, *prima facie*, a matter within the constitutional competence of such a government, but is a matter of Crown prerogative.

Precedent establishes that the Monarch may properly accept the

advice of a minority government to dissolve, provided that no vote of confidence is pending, but has no bounden duty to do so. If the Monarch having declined such advice and called on another political leader to form a government, this in turn fails to secure a majority, he or she undoubtedly has the right, and probably has the duty, to accept advice to dissolve from the successor prime minister. The vindication of such actions by the Monarch lies not in constitutional but in political considerations, that is to say, in the ultimate verdict of the electorate.

As Edmund Burke wrote two centuries ago, "The undoubted prerogative of the Crown to dissolve Parliament... is, of all the trusts vested in His Majesty, the most critical and delicate".

It is quite wrong for ministers, or Opposition leaders, or correspondents of *The Times*, to attempt to fetter the rights of the Crown in this critical and delicate matter of trust for the people in advance of circumstances which may or may not arise and in which constitutional law and precedent prescribe for her Majesty no certain course of action.

Yours faithfully,
H. V. HODSON,
23 Cadogan Lane, SW1,
May 6.

Rate reform

From Mr C. W. Sellars

Sir, How strange that Mr Geoffrey Ripon (May 6) should omit the most needed rate reform of all in his letter to you today. Agricultural property has been de-rated since 1929. Has no government the courage to put this major profitable industry on the same rating basis as all other industries?

Sincerely,
COLIN W. SELLARS,
Oxton, North Yorkshire.
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

From Professor K. W. Cattermole

Sir, Words fail me. Fortunately, comment is unnecessary: juxtaposition of two facts will do.

Room for talent

From Lord Beloff

Sir, While it is true that some extracts from the report of the Conservative policy group on education were leaked to, and printed in, *The Times*, the report itself is a confidential document and had not been published.

When Mr John Rae asserts (feature, April 27) that it proposes only "superficial remedies" he is criticizing a document which he has not seen. It is no breach of confidence to say that much of the work of the group was directed to

precisely those areas of concern to which Mr Rae seeks to draw attention. And remedies such as those he proposes were not overlooked.

I believe that Mr Rae is setting a very bad example to the boys of the eminent school over which he presides when he goes into print with criticism of a document of whose content and tenor he is, in fact, almost wholly ignorant.

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
Conservative Research Department,
32 Smith Square,
Westminster, SW1.

Belgrave Square of Kensington Palace Gardens or Regent's Park would not frequent them if they were situated in, say, Richmond or Twickenham. Even embassies in Hampstead are much less easily accessible than those in central London.

The price of having wide contacts is to have a large, usually a great, house in the centre of a foreign capital. A great house dictates a certain style, which is not the style of the individuals who live in it but the style of the offices which they hold. The representative work of British diplomatic missions abroad can perhaps be better understood by those with "home" rather than "foreign" experience if they think of it as an extension overseas of government hospitality.

The standard for this is set at Lancaster House, 1 Carlton Gardens, Admiralty House and the major London hotels. This "public sector" entertainment is roughly in harmony with "private sector" entertaining in London. Embassies in London could not afford to drop behind.

During my first call as Ambassador on the French Foreign Minister in 1979 he spoke to me of the importance which the French Government attached to the role which the British Embassy in Paris, occupying its splendid hotel in the rue du Faubourg St. Honoré and representing France's great neighbour, played in the life of the French capital.

I think it was Sir Charles Peirce who diagnosed that many of the difficulties which arise are not so much between Britain and France as between London, SW1, and its somewhat more scattered Paris equivalent. The existence of Britain's prestigious embassy in the heart of Paris and the expense of the "style" required to maintain it contribute very directly to keeping Britain's relationship with France steady regardless of the "SW1" troubles which crop up from time to time.

Yours sincerely,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Ditchley Park,
Enstone,
Oxford.

Tasmanian dam site still an issue

From Professor David Bellamy

Sir, I write concerning the South-west Tasmanian world heritage site. Since my arrest for trespass, and period in Hobart Maximum Security Prison in Hobart, which helped to bring the world's attention to the plight of the Gordon River, many things have happened, the most important being that the new Australian Government, led by Mr Bob Hawke, has pledged to uphold its election promise that the dam will never go ahead. For this reason world opinion now believes that the case is won and the whole area is saved from further damage.

This, unfortunately, is far from the truth. The Hydro-Electric Commission, backed by the Tasmanian Government, has indeed stepped up the work. A road, in places 300 metres wide, has been bulldozed through the forest to the dam site, a village has been built, and soon blasting will begin to construct a small coffer dam, the back-up waters from which will flood the Kutikina caves, with all their wealth of aboriginal artefacts.

There are air photographs to prove all this. Die-back disease is already ravaging the trees of the area.

A High Court hearing is pending, the results of which will seal the fate of the fortune of this world heritage site.

The fight is not over, and we must continue to show that the thinking world at large really does care. Every second we waste another part of a world heritage site is being destroyed.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BELLAMY,
Mill House,
Bedburn,
Bishop Auckland,
Co Durham,
May 4.

Land of the free

From Mrs W. M. A. Potts

Sir, What has happened to England, the land of the free? We are staying in Florence. Even in a downpour of rain the Italians were cheerful, improvising waterproof coverings for the children and grannies. Meanwhile the cars and motorbikes speeded incessantly by no helmets, no seat belts or apparent restrictions. There are cars on pavements and in nooks and crannies, wherever they can be manoeuvred.

There is a refreshing air of improvisation and of making the best of things. Yesterday we joined a large congregation at Mass in San Croce. In the square outside there were later hundreds at a good-tempered trade union rally with banners and bands. The speeches were fiery rabble-rousers, but everyone returned calmly home.

The atmosphere is one of freedom and I suppose self-discipline. There is a lot of laughter, fun and cheerfulness, which it is striking to see. And what has happened to us? When did we start to be gloomy, to hang our heads and accept the shackles imposed on us? Nowadays we seem often to have petty officials checking and naming and fining. We are too conditioned to rebel to stand up for our personal freedom, even to take risks.

If, when we get home, I have two pillow passengers on my bike and give a lift to another sitting sideways (without a helmet) and park my bellless car half on the pavement and start selling flowers in the street, I should be halfway to prison. Such action would go quite unremarked in Florence, where they're never heard of parking meters or seen double yellow lines.

Sir, what has happened to England, the land of the free? Yours faithfully,
ANNE POTTS,
10 Sparkford Close,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
May 1.

Eating guinea pigs

From Lady James of Rusholme

Sir, In the cathedral at Cuzco, Peru, there hangs a large seventeenth-century painting of local origin depicting the Last Supper in which the delicacy set on the table before our Lord is pointed out as being the best that could be offered, namely a good-sized roast guinea pig!

Yours etc,
CORDELIA JAMES,
Penhill Cottage,
West Witton,
Leighburn,
North Yorkshire,
May 3.

Too near the bone?

From Mr Dennis Rolfe

Sir, I am aghast at the indiscretion of your paper in reporting the story of Mr Gerry Harley shaving 987 soldiers in one hour (April 29). This must surely be classified information.

I timed myself shaving this morning and it took five minutes, which I think must be average. Using this figure as a basis, the British Armed Forces numbering 327,900 (1982) say 300,000 allowing for women and beards, should spend 25,000 man hours a day shaving. However if the MOD has adopted Mr Harley's method, at 3.64 seconds a shave the total will only be 303.3 man hours. A magnificent shaving saving of 24,697 man hours a day, equivalent to having over 1,000 extra men available for service.

Why make a gift of this information to the Kremlin? Let their "moles" at least work for their living. Yours ever vigilantly,
D. ROLFE,
4 Szeles Studios,
Haverstock Hill, NW3,
May 3.

Correction

Two fifths of Cyprus is occupied by Turkish troops, not two thirds, as stated in a leading article on May 2.



Liverpool in 1933. He was successively assistant curate in the parishes of St Thomas, Wigan, and Farnworth before joining The Missions to Seamen as organizing secretary for the North-West Division and assistant chaplain for the port of Manchester.

He earned a high reputation as a chaplain in the ports of last year and a few days later, in December, was admitted to the living of the Worshipful Company of Innkeepers.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Correction

The obituary of Professor Gladstone Burtie OBE published yesterday should have said that he married in 1936, not 1963.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 690.2, down 4.2
FT 100: 81.82, down 0.4
FT All Shares: 427.88, down 1.23
Bargains: 21,441
Trading: 158,932
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones, 3,719, up 31.11
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index, 967.62, down 19.09
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average 1228.62, down 3.97

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5670, down 1.10
Index 84.2, down 0.5
DM 3.8175, down 0.375
Fr 11.50, down 0.1150
Yen 364.75, down 6.0
Dollar
Index 121.7, down 0.3
DM 2.4345, down 67pts
Gold
\$434.50, up \$2.50
NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$434
Sterling \$1.5690

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rate 10
3 month interbank 10 1/8-10 1/16
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 8 1/8-8 1/16
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/8
3 month Fr 14 1/4-14 1/8
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period April 6 to May 3,
1983 inclusive: 10.304 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Benn Bros 200p, up 10p
Cornell 126p, up 13p
Davies & Niman 208p, up 10p
Mettoy 41p, up 3p
Polly Peck £16 1/2p, up £2 1/2
Sainsbury 401p, up 18p
BICC 245p, down 8p
Blue Circle 435p, down 13p
Brit & Common 800p, down 10p
Fisons 633p, down 10p
House of Fraser 184p, down 16p
UEI 269p, down 14p

TODAY

Interims: Aaronson, Associated Paper, Baggeridge Bridge, Federick Cooper, J Hepworth & Sons, Smith & Nephew (quarterly), United Wire
Finals: Barr & Wallace Arnold, Belgrave (Blackheath), Commercial Union, Costain Group, Crystallite Holdings, Edith, Maurice James Industries, More O'Ferrall, Rotaflex, Shires Investments
Economic statistics: Retail sales (March, final), credit business (March), Wholesale price index numbers (April, provisional), London clearing banks' monthly statement, provisional estimates on monetary aggregates.

BA talks on new aircraft

British Airways is negotiating with the world's three leading aircraft manufacturers for replacement of its ageing Trident fleet, a move that could cost between £300m and £400m for at least 15 new aircraft after 1986.

The state-owned airline would not comment yesterday on a weekend report that it was negotiating a £1,000m deal with Airbus Industrie, the European consortium in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, to lease rivals' jets until the proposed Airbus A320 150-seater comes off the production lines in 1988. A spokesman said that BA was talking with Airbus, McDonnell Douglas and Boeing and no decisions had yet been taken.

● **USM STAKE:** Mr Mark Watson-Mitchell and Mr Barry Hersh, who run the stock market tip sheet, *USM Investor*, have acquired an option to buy a 25.3 per cent stake in the London sheet metal fabricator, VV, which has had its shares traded on the unlisted securities market since late 1981.

● **BTR SUPPORT:** Shareholders in BTR yesterday gave overwhelming support to their company's bid for Thomas Tilling. More than 30 million votes were cast in favour of the increase in capital needed for the bid. About 750,000 votes went against the motion. More than half of those are believed to be owned by the Thomas Tilling Pension Fund, or companies associated with the Tilling group.

● **GULF GO-AHEAD:** The Swedish Government has agreed to let the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation buy the Swedish marketing assets of Gulf Oil.

Wall St slips as recovery falters

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - stocks were lower yesterday after an attempt to completely overcome their sharp early fall failed.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 3 1/2 points, its drop of 9 at the start had been reduced to a loss of about a point before the recovery faltered.

Declines were 4-to-3 over advances in active trading. Mr Tom Epperson, research director at Howard Weil Laboussiere in New Orleans, said: "It is the aggressive buyers who have the substantial profits."

International Business Machines was off 1/2 at 117 1/2; American Telephone & Telegraph off 1/2 at 69 1/2; Digital Equipment up 1/2 to 120 1/2; Boise Cascade off 1/2 at 45; Union Pacific off 1/2 at 57 1/2; Texas Instruments down 1/2 at 155; General Motors off 1/2 at 69 1/2; and Federal Express down 1 1/2 to 84 1/2.

Appeal to summit over poor

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Overseas Development Council yesterday urged the heads of the seven summit nations to consider the urgent needs of the developing world. Mr Robert McNamara, chairman of the council and the former head of the World Bank, said the board feared that the "world's financial and trading systems are in danger of unravelling".

The rich nations, he said, must prevent global recession by targeting more resources for poorer countries. This was an issue which should be a priority item on the agenda at Williamsburg, Virginia, the council said, echoing a call last weekend by Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, that greater emphasis be placed on Third World recovery.

Mr Trudeau said: "I will urge my summit colleagues to address the need for fully adequate financial flows to sustain Third World recovery. The council, noting that the developing countries will not be represented at the Williamsburg meeting, urged a similar course of action which they said was an important part of the solution to world's economic problems."

Describing developing nations as a "strategic link" to growth in Western economies, the council urged heads of state to adopt a specific set of policy initiatives at the summit including:

● A firm commitment to increased resources for the International Development Association with or without participation by the United States which has demonstrated a failure to meet its pledged commitments resulting in a likely reduction of 35 per cent to 40 per cent in aid's funds.

OECD smoothes way for summit

The United States and Europe yesterday agreed to patch up their differences on East-West trade in an effort to smooth the path of the forthcoming summit of heads of government in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, in a statement at the meeting of the 24-nation Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, pointedly refrained from urging new restraints on the European allies. He merely asked that governments should

not artificially boost trade with the East through subsidies or other means.

In turn, European ministers held back from the attack on the Reagan Administration's plans to impose penalties on firms outside the United States contravening American sanctions on sensitive exports to Eastern block countries.

The subject will, however, be raised in bilateral meetings between ministers during the two-day session.

Economic, foreign and trade ministers had before them a

confidential review of East-West trade from the OECD Secretariat concluding that such trade is, with some exceptions, of marginal economic importance to the industrial countries.

The report's conclusions - that in general governments should not interfere with the normal working of private trade - were warmly welcomed by ministers, including Mr Shultz though he called for the OECD to monitor East-West trade development on a continuing basis.

Brighter prospects in North America raise hopes for sustained growth

TI chairman confirms engineers' optimism on economic recovery

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent



Sir Brian Kellett: consumer sales buoyant

Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet were given a confidence-boosting economic prediction yesterday from the normally reticent and depressed engineering industry to coincide with the General Election announcement.

Sir Brian Kellett, chairman of the TI Group, one of the country's largest engineering companies, told the group's annual meeting that there were general indications that economic recovery was under way. This optimism came after a speech last week by Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of Guest, Keen & Neale, who suggested that the recession was ending.

Such remarks, from the top men of two important "bell weather" manufacturing companies, confirm the rise in business confidence being witnessed by the Confederation of British Industry and give a clear indication that business leaders do not regard the upturn in

their fortunes as a mere blip on the economic radar screen. The CBI's latest quarterly trends survey, published on April 26, showed that business confidence was at its highest level for seven years and there were signs that the rate of increase in unemployment was starting to decline.

The CBI's monthly survey is expected to confirm the trend this month, but the next quarterly results - which will show whether or not the rise in optimism has been short-lived - are not due until after the election.

In another new forecast, James Capel, the stockbroker, confirms that Europe and the US are beginning to pull out of the recession caused by the second oil shock. As a result, world trade should now grow by a healthy 3 to 4 per cent this year and be at least as robust next year. However, this assumes that action is taken to curb high interest rates and Third World

debt problems, which may otherwise slow the recovery in world trade next year. Sir Brian, whose company made pretax profits of £4.7m last year compared with a loss of £10.3m in 1981, said the economic prospects in North

America were now more favourable, although the benefit from the weak sterling exchange rate, so helpful to the company's international competitiveness, had been significantly reduced since November. Overall, TI expect the profits

increase in the first half of 1983 to match the level of the first half of last year and to show further progress in the second half of the current year.

Profit-taking hits sterling

Sterling fell from over \$1.58 to \$1.5735 on news of the election. It has been bought over the last few weeks in expectation of a June poll but buyers decided to take profits before the campaign gets under way.

Some dealers also said the market feared that the election might mean further base rate cuts. Last week sterling had been trading at around \$1.585, the highest levels since January.

Sterling is likely to be vulnerable to opinion poll results during the run-up to the election.

Double setback for £26m brewery bid

By Andrew Cornelius



Tony Fox

Tricentrol's Tony Fox dies

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The management crisis at Tricentrol, the exploration company, has intensified with the death yesterday of Mr Tony Fox, the company's long-serving head of exploration.

Mr Fox, aged 62, had been promoted to the new post of managing director for exploration and production only seven weeks ago after the abrupt resignation of Mr Graham Hearn as chief executive.

He had been with Tricentrol since 1973 and was appointed a board director in 1978. Although he had been planning to retire for some time, he was persuaded to stay on as an interim measure to coordinate Tricentrol's exploration.

The company is now being run directly again by Mr James Longcroft, its Tax-exile chairman, and the hunt will be on for two new managing directors, one to replace Mr Fox and the other to fill the vacant post of finance director.

No BP bid for Wyth Farm

British Petroleum has decided not to exercise its option to make a matching bid for Wyth Farm, the Dorset oil field which British Gas is being forced to sell under Government pressure.

The decision leaves the way open for the corporation's 50 per cent stake to be bought by British Gas, a consortium of five British oil companies led by Tricentrol and including Carless Capel, Clyde Petroleum, Premier Consolidated and Gas and Oil Average. Its bid is worth an estimated £180m to £200m.

It seems unlikely, however, that the final contract can be signed before the general election, and its completion is therefore dependent on the Conservatives winning their second term.

BOC Group in \$100m bond issue

By Michael Prest

BOC Group, one of Britain's leading industrial companies, has reinforced its reputation for relatively adventurous fundraising by announcing a \$100m Eurobond issue. The issue comes on the heels of April's £50m bulldog appeal.

That paper offered investors an 11.75 per cent coupon. But the latest terms are tighter. BOC is asking the market to accept a coupon of 10.75 per cent, with a maturity of 10 years and the right to call the issue after seven years at 101 per cent of issue price. The issue price is at par.

In the grey market yesterday, however, the issue was trading at a discount of about 1 1/2%. But bond dealers pointed out that this is common and does not reflect badly on the paper's rating. BOC's half-year results are to be published on Thursday. Pretax profits last year were £103m.

BOC says that the issue will go to restructuring its debt away from floating rate obligations to fixed rate. When the full proceeds of the issue have been absorbed about 80 per cent of the company's debt will be on fixed terms.

IMF backs \$4.3bn package for Chile

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The International Monetary Fund yesterday backed a \$4.3bn rescheduling package for Chile at a meeting between Chilean officials and representatives of about 90 European banks in London.

Mr William Dale, deputy managing director of the IMF, told bankers that Chile had the IMF's "full support". He said the IMF would release funds promised to Chile earlier in the year as soon as the commercial banks agreed to the refinancing.

Yesterday's meeting was also attended by Mr Alan Crawford, a Bank of England adviser. It followed a similar meeting in New York last week. Senior Carlos Caceres, Chilean finance minister, gave details of the package and Chile's recent economic performance. He also emphasized that short-term trade-related debts would be included in the refinancing.

Although Chile has refused to give a state guarantee for private sector corporate debts, bankers were encouraged by Senior Caceres' statement that his government regarded its assurances on these debts as an obligation.

French policies strain links with US banks

Paris (NYT) - Strains have been developing between leading American banks and the French Government, mainly as a result of France's economic problems, according to American bankers here.

Superficially, the controversy centres on the French attempt to require American banks to continue lending to ailing French companies.

The troubles go considerably deeper, however. Earlier this year, the Morgan Guaranty Trust and Citibank decided not to participate in a relatively small loan to Credit National, government-owned financing agency.

The problem was technical but it created doubts whether France will be able to raise huge loans from the international banking market, such as the \$4bn (£2.5bn) loan it obtained last autumn.

Morgan and Citibank insisted on the inclusion of two clauses, cross default and *Parri-passu*.

Under the first, France, as guarantor of the loan, would have to agree that if it were to go into default on any other loan it would be considered to be in default on the Credit National loan.

The *Parri-passu* clause would

City Comment

Staying away from S Africa

If there is one thing Britain's pension fund managers are not interested in at the moment, it is piling money into South African investment. To start with, British investors traditionally have disproportionate holdings in a country which has long been losing significance.

So, however much they may detest interference with their freedom of action, the funds are likely to have some sympathy with the TUC's new guidelines to pension fund trustees on South Africa. These urge union trustees to propose their funds make no new investments in South African securities or property and, less abruptly, that funds might run down existing investments.

The TUC has abandoned an overtly political approach that would fall foul of the principle of investing in the best interests of members. Instead, it argues more subtly that "such investments are not prudent due to the inherent and increasing political instability of the country, and, therefore, not in the interests of their members."

But if South Africa is unattractive on investment grounds, then guidelines become a token-like irrelevance.

The TUC urges that when funds invest in international companies with South Africa interests, trustees should ensure their labour practices follow EEC guidelines. One concerned American fund had to send an observer on a five week trip to make any claim to monitoring stand up.

The main direct interest is South Africa is gold shares. In other circumstances, barring these might really affect fund member. But the TUC guidelines would not affect investment in bullion, which is just as good for South Africa but earn no income for fund members.

Ford Sierra and helicopter among design awards

£1 flexible clip invention is prize-winner

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor



Prize-winner: A road tanker made from fibre-reinforced polyester by M & G Tankers of Stourbridge. Its body is injected with polyurethane foam to give collision-impact resistance and increased fire protection. The judges said it was a breakthrough in transporting hazardous materials.

production capacity from 250,000 to 1 million a month.

Mr Huxtable, who has no plans to leave teaching, says he is working on another idea which should soon lead to a commercial launch. He said: "I am one of those people who have always wanted to invent something."

The idea for the Dandy clip began in Mr Huxtable's bathroom when he was conjuring up schemes for a high pressure water hose for cleaning teeth. The multi-angle spirit level with a single "bubble" chamber is made by Rabone Chesterman, of Birmingham, and costs under £3.

The awards in full Electronic flash generator by Bowens Sales & Service, London; fly fishing reel by British Fly Reels, Falmouth, Cornwall; spirit level by Rabone Chesterman, Birmingham; plastic clip by Wonderclip, Bilston, West Midlands; Mindbender puzzles by Longrange, Brixton & Partners, Stamford; Lines greeting cards by Millimetre, London; Yuki travel

goods by Papworth Industries, Cambridge; hand-operated tiles by Sally Anderson (Ceramics), Harlow, Essex; walkovers by House of Mayfair, Cramlington, Northumberland; call connect system by British Telecom; frontlift trucks by LancerBros, Leighton Buzzard, Beds; turbofan engine, Rolls-Royce; Perfector electronic teleprinter by Standard Telephones & Cables, Brighton; machining centre by Wadkin Machine Tools, Leicester; 30 series helicopter by Westland Helicopters, Yeovil, Somerset; compressor by APV Hall Products, Darford, Kent; waterproofing system by Expandite, London; test leads by Greenpar Connectors, Harlow, Essex; fasteners by Rota-Bolt, Dudley, West Midlands; diaphragm valve by Waterfield Valves, Romsey, Hants; car safety seat by Britax, Exeter, Devon; fuel pump test stand by Leslie Harridge, Buckingham; visual field analyser by Clement Clarke International, Harlow, Essex; portable syringe by Grassby Medical, Walsford, Herts; blood glucose monitor by Hypoguard, Woodbridge, Suffolk; suspension bed by Mcananda, Gloucester; Commendation for prototypes: Mr Bill Gornall, Preston, Lancs; for multi-angle tool system and M & G Tankers, Stourbridge, West Midlands, for a FRP fibre reinforced polyester road tanker.

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COMPANY RESULTS

Fortnum and Mason Year to 28.1.83 Pretax profit £189,000 (£269,000) Turnover £9.5m (£8.6m) Net final dividend 19.2p, making 23.2p.	Young Companies Investment Trust Year to 31.3.83 Pretax profit £700,798 (£602,404) Stated earnings 6.7p (6.44p) Net final dividend 4.5p (4.2p on old cap) making 8.7p (6.4p).
Tyson (Contractors) Half-year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit £280,699 (£1,47m) Stated earnings 16.34p (29.05p) Turnover £24.1m (£27.3m).	British Home Stores Year to 2.4.83 Pretax profit £48.9m (£42.6m) Stated earnings 13.2p (13.0p) Turnover £250.5m (£227m) Net final dividend 2.3p (making 3.5p).
McCarthy & Stone Half-year to 28.2.83 Pretax profit £1.25m (£1.03m) Turnover £4.81m (£2.60m) Net interim dividend 2p (nil).	Grosvenor Group Half-year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit £217,000 (£214,000) Stated earnings 7p on new cap (6.55p) Turnover £3.82m (£5.51m).
Murray Clydesdale Investment Trust Half-year to 31.3.83 Pretax profit £1.38m (£1.24m) Stated earnings 2.1p as to 30.9.83 Net final dividend 0.6p (0.5p).	British Investment Trust Year to 31.3.83 Pretax profit £11.20m (£9.57m) Stated earnings 1.05p (0.93p) Net final dividend 0.5p, making 10.6p (9.2p).

There is an old stock market saw "news out, get out". Despite this, the market held up well yesterday, considering the election announcement and a weaker trend on Wall Street. At current levels, a drop of a few points is neither here nor there, and there is not much business about.

Major is there likely to be between now and the election. As one broker said yesterday: "Anyone who wants to do anything has already done so". Unless big institutions prepared to stake a lot of money on the election outcome, it will remain a speculators' market.

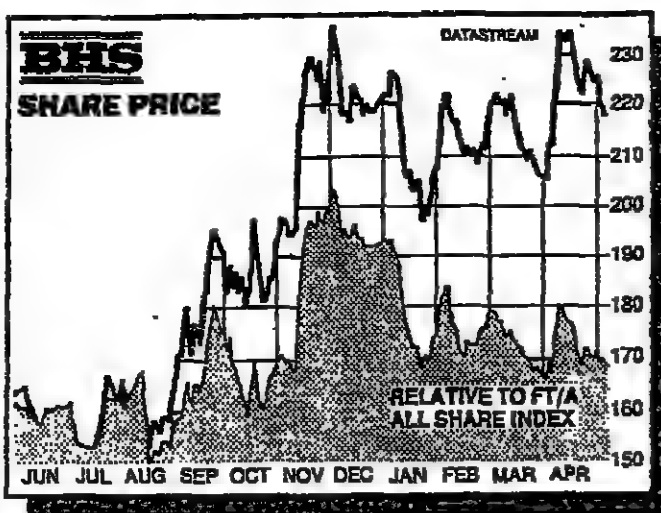
An expected Tory win is unlikely to inspire equities, and the odd-on investment hedge at the moment is the new index-linked gilt edged stock which is convertible into a fixed interest coupon.

British Home Stores

British Home Stores
Year to 2.4.83
Pretax profit £48.9m (£42.6m)
Stated earnings 13.2p (13.0p)
Turnover £250.5m (£227m)
Net final dividend 2.3p (making 3.5p)

It is an open secret that the J. Sainsbury half of the Sainsbury hypermarket business contributes more in profits from selling food than the British Home Stores earns from its merchandise section.

Four weeks of extra trading after an accounting change and the absence of start-up costs meant the joint business made profits of just over £3m last year, about £4m of which go to



BHS just finished £1.5m. The results from just five stores are impressive and a sixth is due to open at the end of this financial year in Edinburgh.

BHS's increase in total profits compares well with the results turned in last week by Marks & Spencer, but the City still believes the group has a long way to go before it catches up with M&S.

The new-style store in Harlow, Essex, could show the way forward while the strides made in cutting costs will continue now the electronic point of sale stock control system is operating.

Five more stores are to get the Harlow treatment, so BHS at least has extra potential compared with M&S.

Last year, merchandise - clothing - sales were up by 7.7 per cent, but up by 9.8 per cent in the second half with inflation running at about 3.5 per cent.

Food sales in the second half could be as much as 4 per cent down in volume with cash sales

down by 1.3 per cent. Food sales were up by 1 per cent over the whole year.

BHS has higher margin convenience foods which it believes shoppers want, but so far there is little sign of improvement.

The restaurants sales are up by 8.3 per cent and BHS is experimenting with more up-market restaurants at Woking, Surrey, and Fareham, Hampshire.

Gross margins have been maintained. Investment income is up, to more than £2m, the result of more cash from better stock control.

Investors blow hot and cold on BHS. If it can get its food marketing right and get its loyal customers to trade up, it could continue to be a potential threat to M&S. But it would be unreasonable to expect Sainsbury's very handy contribution to continue to grow at the same rate. Expected total profits of about £55m this year.

London and Liverpool

London and Liverpool Trust
Year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £7.2m (£1.1m)
Stated earnings 22.5p (6p)
Turnover £41.52m (£12.25m)
Net final dividend 4p making 5.5p (2.45p)
Share price 264p down 11p Yield 2.3%

Mr Jeffrey Bonas, the chairman of London and Liverpool Trust, has learnt the art of discretion. "I do not want to talk about the prospects of this or that part of the business. All I want is a quiet period in which to get on and run the business," he said yesterday.

Who can blame him after a year which saw the company first capture the stock market's imagination and then its suspicion sending the group's shares soaring from 40p to £7 and then plunging to 264p yesterday?

The shares were propelled by market projections of the profit potential for the group's Teleproject large screen video for public houses and clubs - and then knocked for six by concern over the way the system is marketed and the quality of earnings it produces.

Figures yesterday from the group show that Teleproject's ability to produce profits, at least in the short term, is indeed remarkable.

Out of group pretax profits, which rose from £1.1m to £7.2m after deducting £2.9m of deferred profits, half came from Teleproject from a 10 month contribution. The company's ability to maintain its lead alone improves that profits depend largely on whether it can

continue to sell new installations at an average of 250 a month.

If Mr Bonas has learnt a lesson of discretion from the rise and fall of his company's share price, so has the stock market. At 264p, where they yield 2.3 per cent and sell at 11.7 times last year's earnings, the shares are probably unfairly rated given realistic growth prospects. But after the events of the early months of this year, the market will take a while to learn fairness.

United Newspapers

Although the usual advice in any bid to sit tight, shareholders in United Newspapers should take a long hard look at their investment.

United's board, which is bidding for Benn Brothers, is in a difficult position. Its first offer of seven shares for every 10 Benn ordinary has been eclipsed by a rival offer from Extel.

But for United to increase the offer could prove costly. Under its original terms it already faced a dilution of taxed earnings per share of 16 per cent, and to increase the offer enough to beat Extel might mean a bid of nine United for every 10 Benn, which would increase earnings dilution to nearly 20 per cent.

It looks like the old "Catch 22" bid situation: raising the bid could pull down the United Newspapers price so that the bid price does not improve by much, while the shareholders of the offeror company are suffering unnecessarily. That means a sell recommendation on United Newspapers unless it withdraws gracefully.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
1124.00	1123.00	1123.00	1112.50	1112.00	1112.00
1124.00	1123.00	1123.00	1112.50	1112.00	1112.00
1124.00	1123.00	1123.00	1112.50	1112.00	1112.00
1124.00	1123.00	1123.00	1112.50	1112.00	1112.00
1124.00	1123.00	1123.00	1112.50	1112.00	1112.00

SUGAR

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35

WHEAT

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35

SOYABEAN MEAL

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES

High	Low	Settle	High	Low	Settle
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35
145.10	145.00	145.00	141.45	141.35	141.35

1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	2605/06	2606/07	2607/08	2608/09	2609/10	2610/11	2611/12	2612/13	2613/14	2614/15	2615/16	2616/17	2617/18	2618/19	2619/20	2620/21	2621/22	2622/23	2623/24	2624/25	2625/26	2626/27	2627/28	2628/29	2629/30	2630/31	2631/32	2632/33	2633/34	2634/35	2635/36	2636/37	2637/38	2638/39	2639/40	2640/41	2641/42	2642/43	2643/44	2644/45	2645/46	2646/47	2647/48	2648/49	2649/50	2650/51	2651/52	2652/53	2653/54	2654/55	2655/56	2656/57	2657/58	2658/59	2659/60	2660/61	2661/62	2662/63	2663/64	2664/65	2665/66	2666/67	2667/68	2668/69	2669/70	2670/71	2671/72	2672/73	2673/74	2674/75	2675/76	2676/77	2677/78	2678/79	2679/80	2680/81	2681/82	2682/83	2683/84	2684/85	2685/86	2686/87	2687/88	2688/89	2689/90	2690/91	2691/92	2692/93	2693/94	2694/95	2695/96	2696/97	2697/98	2698/99	2699/00	2700/01	2701/02	2702/03	2703/04	2704/05	2705/06	2706/07	2707/08	2708/09	2709/10	2710/11	2711/12	2712/13	2713/14	2714/15	2715/16	2716/17	2717/18	2718/19	2719/20	2720/21	2721/22	2722/23	2723/24	2724/25	2725/26	2726/27	2727/28	2728/29	2729/30	2730/31	2731/32	2732/33	2733/34	2734/35	2735/36	2736/37	2737/38	2738/39	2739/40	2740/41	2741/42	2742/43	2743/44	2744/45	2745/46	2746/47	2747/48	2748/49	2749/50	2750/51	2751/52	2752/53	2753/54	2754/55	2755/56	2756/57	2757/58	2758/59	2759/60	2760/61	2761/62	2762/63	2763/64	2764/65	2765/66	2766/67	2767/68	2768/69	2769/70	2770/71	2771/72	2772/73	2773/74	2774/75	2775/76	2776/77	2777/78	2778/79	2779/80	2780/81	2781/82	2782/83	2783/84	2784/85	2785/86	2786/87	2787/88	2788/89	2789/90	2790/91	2791/92	2792/93	2793/94	2794/95	2795/96	2796/97	2797/98	2798/99	2799/00	2800/01	2801/02	2802/03	2803/04	2804/05	2805/06	2806/07	2807/08	2808/09	2809/10	2810/11	2811/12	2812/13	2813/14	2814/15	2815/16	2816/17	2817/18	2818/19	2819/20	2820/21	2821/22	2822/23	2823/24	2824/25	2825/26	2826/27	2827/28	2828/29	2829/30	2830/31	2831/32	2832/33	2833/34	2834/35	2835/36	2836/37	2837/38	2838/39	2839/40	2840/41	2841/42	2842/43	2843/44	2844/45	2845/46	2846/47	2847/48	2848/49	2849/50	2850/51	2851/52	2852/53	2853/54	2854/55	2855/56	2856/57	2857/58	2858/59	2859/60	2860/61	2861/62	2862/63	2863/64	2864/65	2865/66	2866/67	2867/68	2868/69	2869/70	2870/71	2871/72	2872/73	2873/74	2874/75	2875/76	2876/77	2877/78	2878/79	2879/80	2880/81	2881/82	2882/83	2883/84	2884/85	2885/86	2886/87	2887/88	2888/89	2889/90	2890/91	2891/92	2892/93	2893/94	2894/95	2895/96	2896/97	2897/98	2898/99	2899/00	2900/01	2901/02	2902/03	2903/04	2904/05	2905/06	2906/07	2907/08	2908/09	2909/10	2910/11	2911/12	2912/13	2913/14	2914/15	2915/16	2916/17	2917/18	2918/19	2919/20	2920/21	2921/22	2922/23	2923/24	2924/25	2925/26	2926/27	2927/28	2928/29	2929/30	2930/31	2931/32	2932/33	2933/34	2934/35	2935/36	2936/37	2937/38	2938/39	2939/40	2940/41	2941/42	2942/43	2943/44	2944/45	2945/46	2946/47	2947/48	2948/49	2949/50	2950/51	2951/52	2952/53	2953/54	2954/55	2955/56	2956/57	2957/58	2958/59	2959/60	2960/61	2961/62	2962/63	2963/64	2964/65	2965/66	2966/67	2967/68	2968/69	2969/70	2970/71	2971/72	2972/73	2973/74	2974/75	2975/76	2976/77	2977/78	2978/79	2979/80	2980/81	2981/82	2982/83	2983/84	2984/85	2985/86	2986/87	2987/88	2988/89	2989/90	2990/91	2991/92	2992/93	2993/94	2994/95	2995/96	2996/97	2997/98	2998/99	2999/00	3000/01	3001/02	3002/03	3003/04	3004/05	3005/06	3006/07	3007/08	3008/09	3009/10	3010/11	3011/12	3012/13	3013/1
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Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

Pubs call customers back to the bar

Britain's brewers were deeply disappointed at the failure of the £8m bid by Telelector to show league soccer in pubs and clubs. It was a plan which had many in the brewing business hopeful that the missing millions of drinkers could be dragged instantly away from the fire-side and back into the pubs. Now they must rely on more mundane marketing in their campaign to halt the decline in on-premise drinking.

Millions of pounds are already being spent on improving the quality of pubs. Grand Metropolitan, for example, is spending £25m on an improvement programme for its 1,600 Chef & Brewer pubs. But many observers believe it may all be happening too late. The drift away from the pub trade in favour of take-home business is still gathering pace.

The decline of the pub and the increase in drinking within the home is one of the major marketing and social phenomena of the last 10 years. As supermarkets have made it possible for beer, wine and spirits to be added to the weekly or monthly shopping list, and as weaker and cheaper brands have been introduced to take advantage of this price-sensitive trade, the proportion of alcohol sales accounted for by the "off-trade" has risen steadily.

One attempt by the brewers to stem the drift away from the pub is a radio and poster advertising campaign telling people: "You should have been in the pub last night." The posters depict a group of people enjoying themselves at the bar, while the radio adverts take the form of a man telling jokes to his mates in the pub.

When the laughter has subsided, the voice-over says: "You should have been in the pub last night. But if you weren't, there's always tonight, isn't there?" Significantly, the emphasis is on the social side of the pub and not drinks.

Individual brewers are also laying emphasis on the pub in their advertising. The firm now known as Watney Combe Reid, to emphasize the local nature of its operations as all brewers are doing in the post-Camra era, is running television advertisements on the theme "Great little pubs. A great range of beers", in which it names half a dozen different brews, thus giving the very strong impression that the pubs are free houses, even though the beers are all from the Watney stable.

The uphill nature of the task facing the brewers is graphically illustrated by an analysis of the current state of the drinks business being published this week by the market intelligence company, Mintel. This shows that the share of sales accounted for by off-licences (including supermarkets) was 28.2 per cent in 1981, worth £3,200m compared with just 20 per cent in 1971.

Total sales of alcoholic drinks in 1981 amounted to £11,350m according to Mintel, with pubs, hotels and wine bars - the "on-trade" - accounting for 54.6 per cent of the business worth £6,200m. Clubs' share was 13.7 per cent, worth £1,550m, and restaurants and small hotels with "restricted" licences, allowing drink to be served with meals or to residents only accounted for 3.5 per cent, or £400m.

Mintel points out that the alcoholic drink market is actually difficult to measure not only because of its size, but because of a lack of market research in the catering industry and the problem of separating drink sales from other pub, club, hotel and off-licence revenue. Mintel, however, believes that its own figures give "a fair picture of the true situation".

The Mintel report clearly shows the reliance of pubs on beer. Despite the encroachment of the supermarkets, 86 per cent of all beer sold, in volume terms, is still sold through the on-trade, a far higher proportion than for any other type of alcoholic drink. White rum comes next, perhaps not surprisingly since it has been marketed as the sort of drink young people ask for when out, rather than at home, with 68 per cent of volume going through the on-trade. Then comes cognac and cider, each with 60 per cent, and vodka with 57 per cent.

Every other type of drink sells in greater volume through the off-trade. Despite the rapid growth of wine bars in recent years, 80 per cent of table wine is sold through the off-trade and 70 per cent of sparkling wine. Sixty five per cent of all whisky and port, 60 per cent of dark rum and 57 per cent of gin is now sold for consumption off the premises, says Mintel.

Within the off-trade, the specialist off-licences still take over half the money spent, but supermarket and other non-specialist outlets are catching up.

In 1979, according to Mintel estimates, "other" outlets accounted for £940m of the £2,400m off-trade sales, or some 39 per cent. This had risen to almost 41 per cent by 1981, when they took £1,300m of the £3,200m total.

The specialist off-licence business is still dominated by the big brewers, with Allied (Victoria Wine), Bass (Galleon Wine and Wine Sellers) and Grand Met (Peter Dominie and Westminster Wine) each having over 800 outlets, but the average turnover in the free trade specialists such as Unwins and Liquorsave is slightly higher than in the tied houses.

"In the rest of the off-licence trade it is the multiple and Co-op grocers who have set the pace, together with Marks & Spencer," says the report. "Non-specialists have about 41 per cent of the off-trade and the multiples and Co-op have more than two-thirds of this quantity."

"Own label is becoming increasingly important, particularly for Sainsbury, which with Tesco, are the leading sellers of

alcohol among the grocery multiples. Asda, Fine Fare and International are also important."

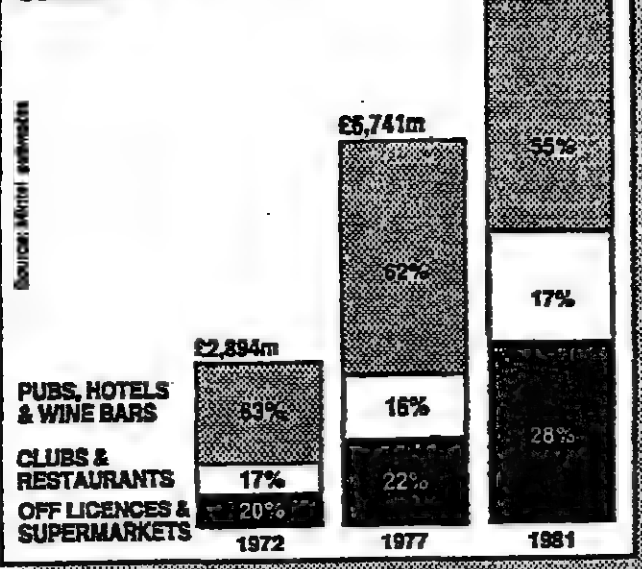
Because of the importance of the off-trade sector, Mintel has conducted its own survey, through the research firm British Market Research Bureau, into people's purchasing behaviour in these outlets.

Men and women are equally likely to buy wine to drink at home, for example, but whereas the great majority of women will buy their wine at the supermarket, a large proportion of the men will buy it at a specialist off-licence. Thirty seven per cent of both men and women buy wine, the survey shows, but of these, 22 per cent of the women will buy it at the supermarket, compared with 6 per cent at a specialist, whereas 17 per cent of the men will choose a supermarket, while 10 per cent will go to a specialist.

The specialist off-licences still account for the lion's share of off-trade spending, but more people, by their take-home drinks at supermarkets, according to the research. The reason for this apparent anomaly is that the Mintel/BMRB research is designed to measure buying habits, rather than consumption.

Of the 66 per cent of adults who buy an alcoholic drink for consumption at home, almost half (31 per cent) make their purchases only at a supermarket,

THE CHANGING PATTERN OF ALCOHOL SALES



ket, 14 per cent shop at a specialist off-licence and 21 per cent use both.

Women, as would be expected, favour supermarkets, but the difference between their level of supermarket buying and that of men is not that pronounced. Of the 71 per cent of men who buy drink to take home, 18 per cent use only specialists, 28 per cent supermarkets and 25 per cent both. All these findings, while scarcely new to the brewers who have their own extensive research programmes nevertheless make depressing reading for them, since they show that in every sector of the business, they are losing control of an

increasing share of the market. Add to this the threat to the tied system from the EEC and the gradual weakening of the tie system generally, and a great many marketing opportunities can be seen to be opening up. "The easing of the tie is likely to continue," says the report. "Among its implications are that it will be easier for independent (non-brewery) new firms to obtain distribution and there will be a greater scope for skilful sales companies."

The Mintel Report on Alcoholic Drinks is available from Mintel Publications, 7 Arundel Street, London, WC2R 3DR. Price £3.95

Economic notebook

Need for a lower dollar

There are signs that the overdue world recovery is at last under way. The United States' output rose by 1 per cent in the first quarter, and the business surveys in Europe are all pointing sharply upwards. Interest rates have fallen worldwide since the middle of last year, and the interest-sensitive components of demand are now responding.

However, there remains one big impediment to a sustained world recovery: the dollar has risen in real terms by more than 30 per cent since 1980, and though it fell back last autumn, it is now riding high again. A strong dollar is an impediment to growth because most raw materials, especially oil, are priced in dollars and because developing countries' debt is denominated (and serviced) in dollars. The dollar's rise since 1980 has thus pushed up the real price of oil and added to the real debt burden of developing countries.

The experience of the 1970s bears out the idea that when the world economy is strong the dollar is weak, and vice versa. In 1972-3, when world output rose by more than 16 per cent, the dollar fell by 15 per cent. The 1976 recovery, by contrast, was accompanied by a rising dollar and faltered in 1977. During the more sustained recovery of 1978-9 the dollar fell by more than 10 per cent against all other currencies. And in the present cycle the incipient recovery of 1981, which was accompanied

by a sharply rising dollar, aborted.

The main reason why the dollar is so important is its effect on the real oil price. Economic recovery after the first oil crisis was made possible by a 20 per cent fall in the real oil price between 1974 and 1978. The nominal price did not change. The trick was worked by rapid world inflation and a falling dollar. The present world recession, though less acute than it was in 1974-75, has lasted longer. One reason is that oil prices in real terms were still about 10 per cent higher at the end of 1982 than in January 1980. As in the previous recession, the nominal oil price, after a sharp initial rise, had remained fairly stable.

This time, inflation has been lower and the dollar, far from falling, appreciated. That is why the dollar price of oil has come under strain. But despite the recent cuts, oil prices still have some way to fall in real terms. Given the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' difficulty in agreeing to price cuts, the necessary further reduction will be painfully slow unless the dollar falls.

Another important factor in last year's world downturn was the cutback in less developed countries' imports. The problem has its origins in the rise in world short-term interest rates from an average of only 6½ per cent between 1975 and 1979 to an average of 12 per cent between 1980 and 1982. This effectively doubled the

burden of debt service in developing countries at a time when their export earnings were cut by the recession and their terms of trade were worsening.

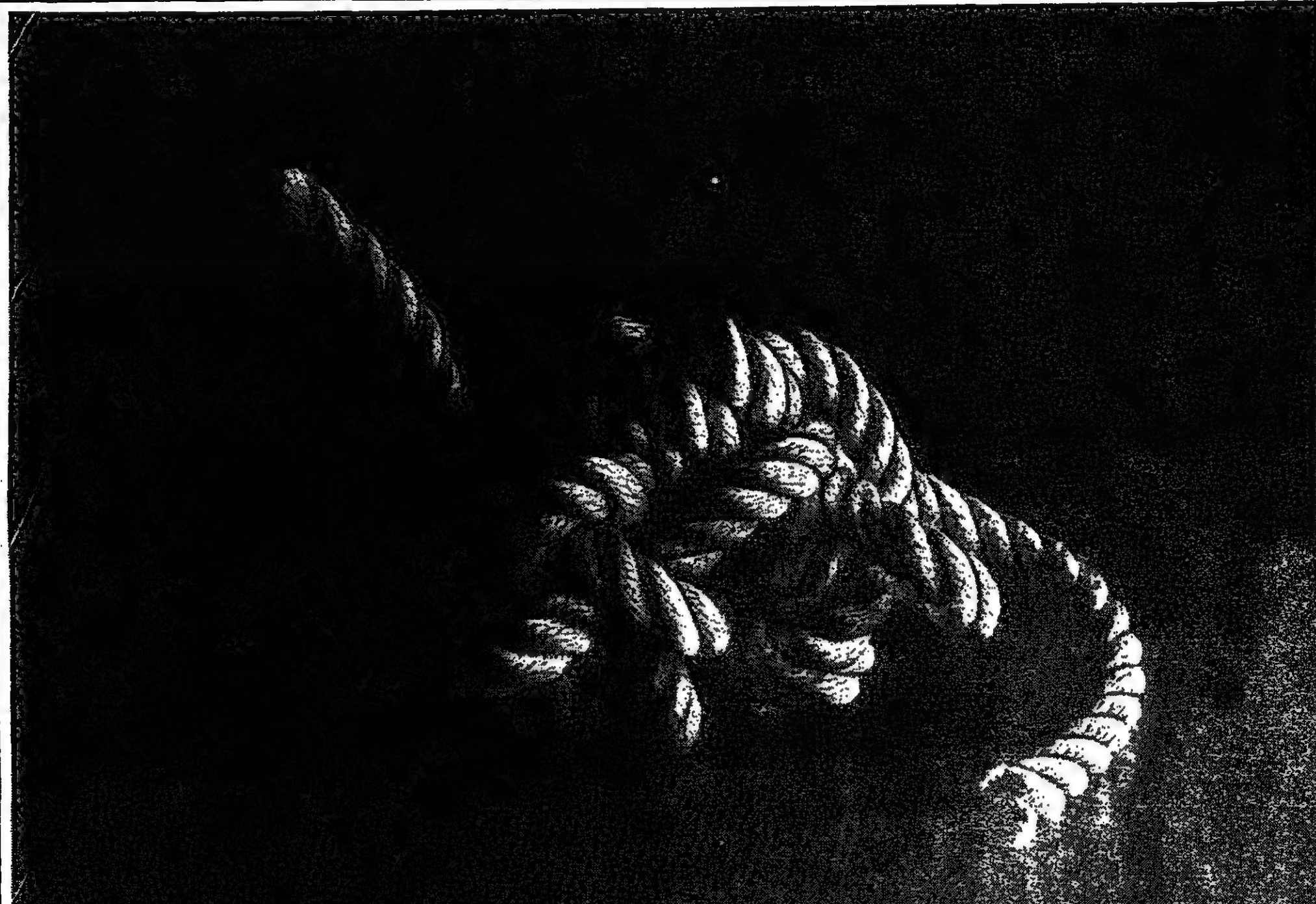
The problem has been eased considerably by the fall in interest rates during the second half of last year. But interest payments are still high in relation to export earnings, obliging the less developed countries to go on restricting imports. The restrictions proved a powerful brake on world recovery last year.

Since commodity prices, unlike oil prices, are determined in a free market, a weaker dollar would mean higher dollar prices for commodities. This would raise less developed countries' export earnings relative to the cost of debt service, and ease the constraint on less developed countries' imports.

As long as the dollar remains high, the embryonic world recovery will be hampered by too-high oil prices and the Third World debt overhang. A fall in the dollar would lessen both problems, but the dollar is now strong (and the size of the US Budget deficit is a powerful factor holding it up). If and when the dollar starts to fall it will be time to celebrate the 1983-84 world boom.

Bill Robinson

Dr Robinson is a senior research fellow at the London Business School and joint editor of Economic Outlook.



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how to judge the rental profile, terms and conditions inherent in a leasing package, and exactly how to make the most efficient use of the current tax and legal environment.

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BANK OF AMERICA



APPOINTMENTS

Mr Pier Giorgio Rossi has been appointed financial director of Fiat Auto (UK). He succeeds Mr Douglas Manson.

Mr David Gwyer has been made marketing director of Showers.

Mr R. C. M. Mair will join Booker McConnell's food distribution division as managing director-designate of BBW Cash & Carry. He will succeed Mr W. J. Marjoram, who retires at the end of the year.

Mr Roy Webb has been made a vice-president of Brown & Root (UK). He succeeds Mr Thaddeus Smith who is a vice-president of Brown & Root, Inc. and has been appointed president of Taylor Diving & Salvage Co Inc, a subsidiary of Brown & Root Inc.

Mr Robert E. Elborne has been appointed a director of the Leicester Building Society.

Mr John Leopold has become treasurer of National Westminster Bank's domestic banking division.

Mr Bernard Sparrow has been made chief manager of the bank's Bahrain branch.

Sir Donald Mainland has been appointed as one of the two government directors on the board of Britoil.

Mr Philip Goldenberg, Mr Nicholas Higham, Mr Robert Missig, Mr Stephen Kon, Mr Jonathan Mettiss and Mr Jonathan Blake have been taken into partnership with S. J. Berwin & Co.

Mr Christopher Haines has taken over from Mr David Boehm as chairman of the Calton Ham Group. Mr Haines will continue as managing director of James Budgett & Son.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 %
Barclays	10 %
BCCI	10 %
Consolidated Creds	10 %
C. Hoare & Co	10 %
Lloyds Bank	10 %
Midland Bank	10 %
Nat Westminster	10 %
TSB	10 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 %

* 7 day deposits on basis of tender £10,000, 0.5% £10,000 up to £100,000, 0.75% £100,000 and over.

Granville & Co Limited.

(Formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited)

27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1982 B3	1981 B3	Company	Price	Chg	Open	High	Low	P/E	Yield
142	120	Ass Brit Ind Ord	134	-	6.0	4.8	7.8	10.2	-
158	117	Ass Brit Ind CULS	152	-	10.0	6.6	17.7	17.7	-
74	57	Airsprung Group	62	-	4.3	14.8	3.5	3.7	-
46	29	Armstrong & Rhodes	327	-	11.4	3.5	13.7	17.3	-
527	197	Bardon Hill	148	-	15.7	10.6	-	-	-
148	100	CCL 11.0% Conv Pref	210	-	17.6	8.4	-	-	-
270	210	Cleddon Services	48	-2	6.0	12.5	3.2	8.6	-
56	48	Deborah Services	96	-	-	-	-	8.6	-
971	77	Frank Horsell	94	-	8.7	9.2	13.9	6.2	-
08	75%	Frank Horsell Pr Ord 87	62	-	7.1	11.5	5.9	12.3	-
83	61	Frederick Parker	34	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	34	George Blair	34	-	7.3	9.6	9.7	12.3	-
100	74	Ind Prec Castings	170	-	15.7	9.2	-	-	-
170	100	Isis Con Prof	147	-	7.5	5.1	4.5	9.4	-
147	94	Jackson Group	223	-	9.6	4.3	16.3	18.1	-
223	111	James Berrough	148	-2	20.0	13.5	1.6	23.6	-
290	148	Robert Jenkins	68	-1	5.7	8.4	8.8	10.6	-
83	34	Scruttons "A"	114	-	11.4	10.0	5.1	8.8	-
167	112	Torday & Curfise	26	-	0.46	1.5	-	-	-
29	21	Unilock Holdings	68	-	6.4	9.4	4.9	7.0	-
85	64	Walter Alexander	266	-	17.1	6.4	4.1	8.5	-
270	214	W. S. Yeates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

Gilts slip after slow start

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, May 9. Dealings end, May 20. Contango Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Yield
Amphip Industries 25p Ord (140)	104	12.5
Amphip Industries 25p Ord (140)	104	12.5
Amphip Industries 25p Ord (140)	104	12.5
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Amphip Industries 25p Ord (140)	104	12.5

Issue price in parentheses / Unlisted Securities

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

SHORTS

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

MEDIUM

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

LONG

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

DOLLAR STOCKS

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

A-B

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E

The ending of uncertainty over the election date boosted share prices in the afternoon yesterday after an otherwise dull start to the new account. The FT Index down by 10.3 points at 684.1 by mid-morning.

However, as the election news filtered through prices came back and the market closed the day down by 4.2 points at 694.4.

Gilts started the day slowly and finished 1/2 to 3/4 off largely on fears that this morning's money supply figures will show that official targets have been exceeded.

Elsewhere leading stocks moved in line with the market, with Courtauld making the most of the running to finish up 2p at 100p despite suggestions of a rights issue to accompany forthcoming figures. GEC was up 1p at 223p. Distillers was up 1p at 244p, while the clearing banks were largely unchanged.

Market sentiment was that the election and a Conservative victory had already been largely discounted and that a surge in prices is unlikely. However, analysts - including Mr John Stevens, head of research at

brokers Greaveson, Grant - warned that market nerves will be tested to the limits by any opinion polls which move against Mrs Thatcher. "Any sign that her lead is less than 6

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forecast pretax profits for 1983 of £2.1m. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries' £26m takeover offer for Davenports closes today, but may be extended if acceptances of near 30 per cent are achieved for the takeover terms.

Building shares hardened behind the news of Barratt Developments falling from and then returning to 460p.

Engineers also looked good after an optimistic statement from TI about trading at the annual meeting with an opening loss of 8p halved to leave the shares at 174p. NEL, at 97p, rose on news of an overseas contract, while in electricals Racal gained 8p.

After hours trading was quiet although any dealing which took place among the leading shares tended to leave them 1p or 2p lower. Oils were mixed although insurance continued to gain ground including Eagle Star which was up by 10p to 318p. Merchant bankers Leopold Joseph also improved to consolidate earlier gains and finished up 15p at 228p, on news of the Edinburgh Trust shareholding disposal.

Brokers are upgrading their forecasts for United Biscuits in expectation of some good news at tomorrow's annual meeting in Edinburgh. Bright trading, particularly in the US, means that the market is now going for pretax profits of £80m in 1983, against earlier forecasts of £75m and pretax profits of £68.4m in 1982.

In breweries, Davenports Brewery (Holdings) jumped by 10p to 235p after announcing strong interim figures which puts the group on target for

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Why this is the year of the mouse

THE WEEK

To the Chinese, 1983 is the Year of the Pig. To the computer world, 1983 will be remembered as The Year of The Mouse. Today sees the British launch of a mouse-based microcomputer program by the US company Microsoft. The move makes Microsoft the latest in a lengthening line of hopeful vendors of electronic rodents, writes Roger Green.

The names of those who hope this year to cash in on what they hope will be a boom in this type of user-friendly small computers now read like a who's who of the business: Apple, Commodore, Digital Equipment, Texas Instruments, VisiCorp, and now Microsoft, the author of the world's most widely-used micro-

computer version of the programming language Basic. Outside the animal kingdom, a "mouse" is a small, wheeled box connected to a computer. Moving it about a desktop causes corresponding changes to the position of a pointer on the screen of the user's machine.

When teamed with suitable program "software" and "high resolution" computer displays capable of showing detailed graphics, it is hoped that mouse-based systems will be easier to use than computers kitted out solely with keyboards.

This summer, Microsoft is to start selling a low-cost mouse and word processing program: first for the IBM Personal Computer, and then for 25-odd other microcomputers.

As with most computer fads, the mousemania dates back to US government research in the 1960s. The search for alternative "human interfaces" to computers was taken up in earnest in the 1970s by Xerox, which is credited with the introduction of the first commercially available mouse-based microcomputer.

Xerox's particular innovation was to have the mouse point at "icons" - visual representations of the users' activity. To look up files of information, the mouse is moved to a drawing of a filing

cabinet. This year's newcomers hope to offer many of the features of Xerox's powerful but pricey Star "workstation" - but at a much lower cost.

A survey of 136 companies which have installed word processors shows that although only 11 per cent were dissatisfied with their equipment and 13 per cent with the after-sales service staff reductions were generally lower than anticipated. Copy typists were the hardest hit.

Increased productivity was reported by most companies, particularly those employing under 25 people, but fewer than two thirds considered they were realizing the full potential of their equipment.

Mr Bernard Marks, chairman of the Alfred Marks Group, who published the survey, said:

"Almost all the problems encountered by management could have been dealt with before the equipment was purchased if only they had attended a training session before making their decision."

"It is a terrible indictment, considering the size of the investment, that 37 per cent of managers queried did not attend a seminar before or after installation."

"Before and After Word Processing published with the Alfred Marks Word Processing Salary Survey (£24).



Machine that is made to measure

A subsidiary of the recently privatized National Freight Consortium has entered the computer manufacturing business - despite the fact that there are more than 300 producers of computers already.

Freight Computer Services, which provides computer services to the 60 or so companies in the consortium, and to many companies outside, has designed a low-cost range of desktop microcomputers and is producing them at factories in Enfield, Middlesex, and Willesden, north London.

The new machines, called the Falcon range, can be used as intelligent terminals, word processors or stand alone computers for business and industrial control applications. They cost from £1,750.

Explaining his company's decision to produce its own machines, FCS data processing director Geoffrey Allerton said: "It was a question of necessity. We are very heavily into the computer network business, and we needed an 8-bit computer that has very good communications and job-handling capabilities. We looked at the machines on the market and could not find one that met our requirements. So we decided to design one."

The new machines can communicate with each other and with other makes of computers. They can also emulate other manufacturers' video terminals and can be linked to Prestel, Videodata and private information networks.

One model, the Falcon 1100, has four floppy disk drives collectively providing 1,500,000 characters of data storage. The most powerful machine, the Falcon 1500, incorporates a Winchester disk drive of between 5 million and 20 million characters capacity, as well as twin floppy disk drives.

A variety of printers and other peripherals can be attached, and the performance of all models can be easily modified or enhanced by a range of interchangeable plug-in printed circuit boards which provides a wide choice.

The Falcon range cost over £250,000 to develop, and FCS aims to sell at least 1,000 machines over the next 12 months. Main market for the new microcomputers is the 10,000 or so road haulier firms in the United Kingdom.

Geoffrey Ellis

Frank Brown

A robotic ear for the Scots

The greeting "Hey, Jimmy!" could give some visitors to the Automaton '83 exhibition in Birmingham next week more than they bargained for. One of the robots on show is controlled by voice recognition and has been taught to obey commands given with a heavy Glaswegian accent, writes Maggie McLernan.

The robot will be etching visitors' initials on glass paperweights at the Cincinnati Milacron stand. It has learnt the alphabet from Scotsman Andrew Mackie, who works for software house CAP Reading which has linked a Cincinnati Milacron industrial robot to an Intel 8086 microprocessor.

The overall system is controlled by a pre-release version of Intel's 570 speech transaction development set, and has taken less than five months to assemble.

The robot can remember tasks of up to 3,000 points in six axes of motion and learned movements to commands generated by the voice unit.

To confirm the robot's understanding, it was programmed to point to the letters on a blackboard.

In the 90s

An idea of what computers will be like in the 1990s can be gained from the latest book from the National Computing Centre, *Towards Fifth-Generation Computers*, writes Frank Brown.

Computers ten years from now will incorporate an amalgam of developments in several complementary engineering and scientific disciplines which will make them much more powerful, more versatile, and much easier to use than present day computers.

With very wide range of topics to be covered, it is inevitable that the book covers the subject somewhat superficially, but the reader is given a balanced global survey coupled with a mass of references for a more detailed study. In short this is a good starting point for anyone

individual in long-term planning. *Towards Fifth-Generation Computers*, NCC Publications (price £10.50).

Future Technology Systems, the British microcomputer manufacturer, is to make its US debut with a new product at the National Computer Conference in Anaheim, California, next week, unveiling its second generation of 16 bit machines.

Dragon computers are now being produced at the rate of 2,000 per week, and as the new factory at Port Talbot comes full capacity this figure will rise to 5,000. The company is introducing single disk drive and is soon to launch the new Dragon 84, aiming at the educational market.

UK events

RIBA Computer Conference and Exhibition Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London, May 10-12

Micro City '83 Bristol Exhibition Complex, May 10-12

Computer Open Day Exhibition The Post House, Southampton, May 12

Compec Scotland Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, May 17-19

Athlone '83 National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, May 17-20

International Word Processing Exhibition Wembley May 24-27

Computers in the City Barbican Centre, London, May 24-28

Micro '83 Conway Hotel, Dunmurry, Belfast, June 1

Apple '83 Fulcrum Centre, Slough, June 3-5

ZX Microfair Alexandra Palace, London, June 4

Office Automation Show & Conference Barbican Centre, London, June 1-9

4th Commodore Computer Show Curran International Hotel, London, June 9-11

Blackburn Computer Fair King George's Hall, Blackburn, June 11

South of England Personal Computer Fair, Exhibition Hall, Wood Green School, Winyard, June 12

Computer Fair, Earts Court, London, June 16-19

Computer Open Day Exhibition, Holiday Inn, London, June 16

Compec North '83, Belle Vue, Manchester, June 21-23

Leeds Software Fair, John Taylor Teacher's Centre, Leeds, June 21



Blackboard exercise for the Automaton robot

BBC Micro User Show, Renold Building, UMIST, Manchester, June 24-26

Dexpo Europe '83, West Centre Hotel, London, June 29-July 1

Overseas Events

Europe Software Exhibition, Utrecht, Holland, May 17-19

National Computer Conference & Exhibition, Anaheim, US, May 16-19

Computers, Communications & Compiled by Personal Computer News

COMPUTER BRIEFING

More price cuts on the way

Some lively competition is expected to follow a round of price-cutting by Sinclair, taking advantage of high volume sales of its range of micros. The 48K Spectrum is cut by £45 to £130, the 128K version is down by £25 to £105, the ZX81 by £10 to £40, and the printer now sells at £40, down by £20.

Since its launch a year ago, the Spectrum has sold more than 300,000 and the cost of computing has fallen dramatically since the introduction of the original ZX80 three years ago; then, the machine offered only 1K and black and white display for £100.

2-year jackpot

After a simultaneous launch of 15 programs for home micros, Southampton-based software house Quicksilver is hoping to achieve second year turnover of close on £1m. The company was started two years ago by 31-year-old Nick Lambert with a bank overdraft of £200, concentrating on arcade-style games for the home, and first year results showed a turnover of £70,000.

Mr Lambert says there is now a move away from "in house" production of software, and describes the company as being a publishing house for the work of freelance games authors, all of whom receive a 25% royalty.

Abbey National Building Society, with 9,000,000 account holders, has placed an £11m order for computer equipment with Sperry. The system, based on the Sperry 1100/82, with a supporting 1100/61 and peripherals, will be installed at the society's new HQ in Milton Keynes next year.

Systematics International Microsystems has been awarded the computer industry version of an Oscar, the ICP Million Dollar Award, for sales of its integrated "Financial Controller" software. The suite of programs, all based on the Apple2 machine, are intended for the non-computer trained operator and Ronald Young, Chairman and MD, says that sales are now well on their way to the five million dollar mark.

How to buy the right systems

Company executives can now assess the merits of investing in a micro computer system for their office before committing themselves to any expense. In a series of free one day seminars directed by Mike Gross-Niklaus, former training manager of Commodore, Adda Computers, the businessman can have answered some of the questions involved in the selection of hardware and software for carrying out specific roles in the office.

There is an ever present danger in the hustling world of systems salesmen, that a prospective buyer may be put off by the jargon he feels is needed to communicate with the salesman, and the chances are he will end up buying the latest "all-singing, all-dancing" super galactic Whizzo Mk3 Universal Computer, costing many times his original budget and still not fulfilling the originally defined role.

Gross-Niklaus, now a freelance computer consultant, sets out to destroy the myth that to use a micro the operator must also be a programmer: with the most recent of office software, all commands to the machine are now simply a matter of selecting certain options from a menu displayed on the VDU screen and pressing the correct key.

He warns that a prospective buyer should first set out to define the role for which he needs the computer, and then search through the software available; only then, when the correct software is found, should the hardware be bought.

NEW GENERATION DISTRIBUTED MODELLING

You could fill a Times supplement with Wizard's success story alone.

(The story of Europe's most successful software launch ever.)

Four years ago, when we decided to develop the world's best modelling system, we knew what we had to do.

We went straight to the top.

We looked at the problems of 500 of our biggest financial planning clients.

Having listened to what they had to say, we set about designing the system that would meet their needs.

It took three years and millions of pounds, but Wizard has been worth it.

Its almost instant success has been ample proof that, at Comshare, we got it right.

WHAT IS WIZARD?

Wizard is a genuine multi-dimensional system, that makes even the largest model simple to design and understand.

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Its totally flexible reporting system allows for almost any report format, in any currencies from even the largest, most complex models.

And Wizard also boasts non-procedural rules in every dimension, eliminating most programming problems and minimising maintenance.

FROM MICRO TO MAINFRAME But perhaps Wizard's most impressive property is its compatibility.

You can develop small models, using a simple spreadsheet format, on your micro, and without any changes take them up to a mainframe when you need the power.

But you can also bring

mainframe data back to your micro for small scale, off-line analysis.

Or, you can start on the bureau service and only move in-house when you are ready.

And because all the systems are totally integrated, changing from one to another couldn't be easier, using the built-in telecommunications software with automatic error correction.

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Surprisingly enough, it won't take you long to get to grips with Wizard's world-beating modelling abilities.

That's because we've developed a system of self-paced computerised video-courses that even a complete computer novice will have no trouble in following.

The courses have been highly acclaimed and are just one more example of Comshare's commitment to the user.

THE USER IS ALWAYS RIGHT

Of course the real test of a new system is how the customer likes it.

Needless to say Wizard scored highly.

Below are just a few of the nice things people have said about it:

ROUSSEL "WIZARD - a thoroughly practical solution to today's business planning problems. It is flexible, powerful, understandable and easy-to-use by non DP specialists." **TREVOR WILKINSON** Chief Management Accountant

BP "Development time and effort has been greatly reduced since the introduction of Wizard which has added a new dimension to our flexibility to respond to reporting format changes." **DAVID C. WORT** Group Chief Accountant

(BTI) "Very adaptable business modelling system." **RON FAIRCHILD** Chief Accountant

BCC International "I was very impressed by the speed with which we were able to develop the budgeting system, working to a tight deadline, Wizard and I, we did it together!" **MICK MILLER** Market Planning

CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY "The beauty of Wizard is that I know the system and can make major alterations at any time, without involving computer experts. In addition to this, the powerful investigation capability enables me to report the effect of proposed rate structure changes within minutes." **PAUL BATCHELOR** Management Accountant

As if all this wasn't enough, there's Wizard's impressive sales records to contend with.

After just eighteen months Wizard is already being used by over 250 large organisations in 10 countries.

And it doesn't look like stopping there.

THE COMSHARE GUARANTEE Behind this enviable success story you have Comshare, one of Europe's leaders in the field of application software, and a company with over 10 years business modelling experience with over 1,000 top organisations.

We have dozens of offices throughout Europe and America all of which provide professional support and consultancy whenever our customers need it.

If you want to know more about Wizard, the world's best modelling system, clip the coupon and send it to Graham French at 32-34 Great Peter St., London SW1. Tel: 01-222 5665.

And perhaps this time next year it'll be your success story in the FT., as well as ours.

WIZARD

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David Baldwin, managing director of Hewlett-Packard, and Darryl Barbé, his counterpart at the Digital Equipment Company, are in a particularly powerful position to bring Britain new employment and growth through high technology investment.

Their parent corporations in the United States are the fastest growing of the world's giant computer manufacturers. Digital (DEC) and Hewlett-Packard (HP) have maintained average growth rates close to 30 per cent a year for several years, both in Britain and in their international sales.

The two companies therefore need to add steadily to their worldwide capacity for research, development and manufacturing, and they have the financial strength to expand. All that is required for this country to benefit is for the British management to persuade the corporate headquarters to invest here rather than elsewhere in Europe.

Fortunately, DEC and HP have seized the opportunities for expansion in Britain which have arisen since the two DBs took charge (Mr Barbé became United Kingdom general manager of DEC in 1979, Mr Baldwin became joint managing

director of HP in 1978 and sole m.d. in February 1982).

HP built a £7m worldwide software development centre at Pinewood in Berkshire, which opened last year. And in 1981 the British subsidiary won a competition between HP's European companies to manufacture computer disk drives. The new factory, which is being built on a 165-acre green-field site at Yate, near Bristol, should employ around 700 people within two or three years. (A temporary plant has already been put up there and it is about to start shipping its first disk drives).

At the same time, HP's original British factory at South Queensferry, Scotland, is in its third phase of development. It has about 800 people making communications equipment for export worldwide.

DEC still the only one British manufacturing plant, making minicomputers at Ayr in Scotland, though it, too, is growing steadily. Current employment there is about 600.

But DEC's latest expansion plans in the United Kingdom are based on Reading, where a worldwide centre for research and development automation is to be built alongside the company's existing head-

quarters. It will perform a very similar function to HP's Pinewood development centre a few miles away, a tribute to the software engineering skills in the Thames Valley which now match those available anywhere.

Mr Barbé says that Reading emerged as the natural choice for the centre after "the corporation decided that it was strategically sound to locate key engineering resources outside the United States. We were not in neck-to-neck competition with anywhere else".

The many corporate parallels between HP and DEC in the United Kingdom are matched by few personal similarities between the DB's at the top, beyond their effectiveness as managers and as lobbyists with the British Government and with their US headquarters. The most obvious difference is that Mr Barbé is American and Mr Baldwin is British.

Most American multinationals make a point of appointing Britons to manage their United Kingdom operations (and indeed it is generally DEC's policy to entrust local citizens with the running of their subsidiaries). But Mr Barbé insists that he has not suffered here by being an exception to that rule. "I haven't found any difficulty, internally or externally, with my nationality," he says. Sometimes it can help a bit because it breaks the ice.

The Barbé family emigrated from France to the West Coast of the United States in the 1890s and Darryl was born, bred and educated in California. His two degrees, Bachelor of Economics and Master of Business Administration, are both from Stanford, the best private university on the West Coast, and his first employer (for a year full time between undergraduates and graduate work at Stanford and then for two years part time while he

studied for his MBA) was one of California's leading electronics companies Hewlett-Packard.

"To this day I consider them an outstanding company," Mr Barbé says of HP. But he took his newly minted MBA in 1964 to the California and Hawaii Sugar Company, where he became a systems designer with IBM computers. Mr Barbé moved to Singer Business Machines in 1966 and in 1967 transferred to Singer's Brussels office; he has lived outside the United States ever since. "I get back there frequently enough to maintain my personal and business contacts," he says, "and I have a good sense of what the US is all about".

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Predictably, the Californian weather is what he misses most. DEC recruited Mr Barbé in 1974 as European manager for business products based in Geneva. He took charge of the British company in January, 1977.

He is clearly accomplished in the technicalities of the computer industry, but his background is that of a professional manager and business executive. On the other hand Mr Baldwin's background is firmly in electronic engineering, which is very much in keeping with HP's image as "an engineer's company".

Mr Baldwin sounds like a Cambridge-educated engineer, but he turns out to have qualified in the traditional British manner, studying part-time at various colleges and polytechnics in London during the 1950s. He worked for nine years as a development engineer for EMI and then spent a short period with Schlumberger before joining HP in 1966 as an instrument field engineer. He was in Geneva at the same time as Mr Barbé, as HP's European instrument marketing manager, and came back to Britain as joint managing director in 1978.

Mr John Young, president of the American parent company, had spent two evenings with Mr Baldwin at an Alpine ski resort, persuading him to return to Britain. Mr Baldwin says he agreed "because the signs were favourable for a restructuring to take place in British industry", which would allow the country to become a major international force in high technology.

"I wasn't happy just to be part of a marketing operation," he says. "I wanted to build a business for Hewlett-Packard in the United Kingdom with ingredients of marketing, manufacturing and research and development. I have a personal objective to make Hewlett-Packard Limited a net exporter in terms of its balance of trade." But at the same time he is unhappy with the disproportionate emphasis that politicians and the press put on manufacturing, compared with other job-creating activities like research and development, marketing and services.

Clive Cookson
Technology Correspondent

Hand-held computers

No longer chained to the office

The real beauty of the micro has been its role in the decentralization of computing power both as a localized processing unit and as a remote data terminal to much larger computers.

In spite of the benefits of ready information and the increased memory capacity we are now beginning to see the emergence of the 32-bit machine - the desk-bound nature of the micro has become a physical limitation to its use in certain applications. Could it not free itself from the chains that bind it to the office and factory?

In the past year several hand-held computers have been launched. In Britain which should make us reappraise the way we collect and process data in remote locations, particularly in business applications.

Of course, the idea of portable data collection devices is nothing new. In an electronic form, they have been around for 20 or 30 years but their sheer size and weight, due largely to the bulky power packs required to make them work, meant that they were severely restricted in their application.

Proven but hitherto unrelated technologies have been combined and packaged with more than a little imagination to provide an exciting prospect as intelligent portable data collection terminals.

The portability of devices has been greatly helped by the use of very large scale integration techniques to produce an increasingly large memory capacity within conventional microchips, low power consuming CMOS circuitry enabling computers to run on compact battery packs and inexpensive liquid crystal displays as a flat alternative to the cathode ray tube. All these developments offer space-saving advantages and when combined in the same package have produced the truly portable computer.

So what advantage is there in using a hand-held computer as a portable data collection terminal?

The most obvious is the ability to use the computer exactly where it is needed. As a computer rather than a simple data collection device its programmability and local processing power will be of particular interest to potential users who need to collect information and validate it on the spot before transmission to a central computer.

In addition, input errors of data collected in the field can be greatly reduced as data is input only once, and any input errors can easily be detected as information can be reviewed and corrected, if necessary, before transmission to a central computer. Traditional pen and paper methods of data collection provide too many opportunities for transcription errors if information is to be ultimately processed by computer.

But obviously any device which provides computing power in the field is bound to result in increased efficiency and considerable cost savings in terms of time.

Also of importance are the communications capabilities of hand-held computers enabling them to be connected to a variety of peripherals and other computers such as micros, minis and mainframes. Most hand-held computers include a variety of interfaces.

RS232, serial acoustic coupler and barcode interfaces are usually standard. This results in some highly versatile data collection terminals with equally sophisticated communications abilities.

So who exactly is likely to need an intelligent portable data collection terminal and what sort of devices are available?

One of the first truly comprehensive hand-held computers to be launched in the UK was the Epson HX-20, which has a full QWERTY keyboard with additional function keys, liquid crystal display, microcassette and mini-printer all in a package no bigger and weighing no more than a London telephone directory.

The HX-20 is more than just a good example of Japanese technology but it has taken British ingenuity to apply it to the data collection market.

The main problem with such a portable device is that it requires an equally portable acoustic coupler for communications purposes to maintain its credibility as a portable data collection terminal. Unfortunately most couplers are mains powered. However Norbain Micro, the national dealer for the HX-20, has adapted one so that it draws its operating power from the internal power supply of the HX-20.

With this development Norbain Micro has opened up a variety of new application areas for the HX-20 including van and insurance salesmen, milkmen, market researchers, and even journalists.

Other companies have concentrated their efforts in different areas. John Bradburn, of Northampton, for example, is successfully concentrating its efforts on emulating communications protocols to allow it to talk to other computers such as DEC on its RSTS/E operating system, Qantel and Sirius.

Another interesting application involves chemists and pharmacists who are using it to print readable prescription labels for prescribed medicines. Gone are the handwritten labels that leave you wondering how many pills you are supposed to be taking and at what intervals.

The potential seems almost endless... we're only scratching the surface.

Other intelligent data collection terminals seem to be the preserve of British enterprise. The Husky developed by DVW Microelectronics has been designed specifically for data collection in harsh environments. With its metal frame and sealed membrane keyboard it is both extremely rugged and waterproof. The Ministry of Defence has chosen Husky for maintenance data collection on the Rapier missile system. The Severn-Trent Water Board are also finding a number of uses for it.

The PCT 1 from Portable Computer Terminals on the other hand has been designed primarily for use by van salesman and in other similar commercial applications. At Golden Wonder, the salesman use it to process their sales and it is claimed that they earn themselves more commission as a result.

Ian Smith of Norbain Micro, says: "At the moment the data collection potential of portable computers seems practically endless, but we are currently only scratching the surface."

Keith Mason

Where to look for the new jobs

Four categories of UK computer users will mount intensive recruiting campaigns over the next few months: they will be looking for trained and experienced programmers and systems analysts to develop computer systems on the hardware they have just purchased.

The retail and distribution sector, a recent survey of British data processing managers revealed, will be putting less emphasis on buying new computers and more on getting the staff to implement systems. The same goes for the financial sector, which seems to have finished one of the most-concentrated campaigns of capital expenditure on new hardware and software.

The survey, conducted by the management consultants, Urwick, also confirmed that the educational and research sector will continue its buying spree and will have, over the next 12 months, a strong demand for new recruits.

Finally, the public administration sector is combining a computer acquisition campaign with a recruitment drive to get personnel versed in distributed systems.

All four sectors will be looking for people with the skills to turn an investment in distributed computing into a real benefit. When the data processing managers surveyed by Urwick were asked about their plans for further decentralized computer systems, they said that over the next 12 months decentralization will continue to be a top priority.

JOB SCENE

The distribution of computing power through organizations, a strong move away from the centralized data-processing department, demands skills in handling databases, communications and office technology as much as the more traditional skills in applications programming.

The other five sectors which Urwick uses to classify users - general industry, process industry, engineering, public utility and computer bureaux - have much less demand for new development staff. The demand for new development staff, however, is still below historically high levels reached in the late 1970s.

Since then productivity developments, though slight in the field of systems development, have had some effect along with the inevitable effect of recession.

With the new ranges of software tools coming on the market for use in commercial and industrial operations, increasing proportion of development load will be borne by end users, with the data processing centre playing a supportive role.

This demands new skills in development staff; if they are to remain in the forefront of technology developments. Instead of being stuck in the data processing department, talking only to other technical experts in their own language, development staff will have to fan out around the organization, speaking about computers in language that non-technical staff understand.

That is no small challenge to staff whose careers have, until now, depended on their grasp of the technology and their fluency in the jargon.

Job interviews for these staff are also changing from a verbal examination of their technical expertise by fellow experts into a test of their ability to communicate to non-expert staff the intricacies of today's computer systems.

Richard Sharpe
Editor, Computing

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RACAL

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David Hewson meets a modern lady called Brunnhilde

How I learned to love my micro

It was love at first sight when I ran my fingers across her silky brown keyboard, and caressed her gleaming function buttons. Brunnhilde, as she was later to be christened in honour of her German origins, was not like other computers.

They squeaked and groaned as a hack's calloused fingers stumbled across their mean and unresponsive keys. Some, seeking preferment in fashion, even boasted touch keys, useless immobile things which responded with a pathetic beep.

From the very beginning, things were different with Brunnhilde. Her QWERTY flowed like a keyboard made by Maserati. It was a purchase based on something other than pure impetuosity. The haunting phrase "word processor" had been running menacingly through my brain for weeks, ever since the antediluvian electric typewriter in the study had demonstrated its readiness for the great Olivetti graveyard in the sky.

But from the moment the salesman spotted my pulsating wallet and magically intimated that for less than £800 all this, and a floppy disk drive, and a dot matrix printer could be mine, my heart was lost. It was then that my troubles began.

She came in three boxes, which is just as well, since very early on in this affair two of them were returned with alacrity to Dixons on the grounds that their neat little contents were permanently programmed to a non-working mode. In my ignorance, I had visions of the Monty Python parrot sketch in reverse.

"This computer is an ex-computer. Having taken its last bite, it has shuffled off its mortal coil."

"No sir, it's resting. Commodore 64s do that, it's a well-known fact. Instead, I was



simply greeted with a blissful willingness to replace or supply anything "when it comes in from head office". I can only imagine that Dixons is based in Tasmania.

In the two weeks it took to supply a working computer disc drive/printer set-up capable of handling a word processing programme, I discovered several things about both the Commodore 64 and myself.

Though not technically minded, I am a stickler for detail. So it is a matter of some concern that, having typed, at least ten times, the interminable programme supplied in the computer manual to show me what a sprite is, the machine still blinks uncomprehending at me on every occasion.

Furthermore, my concern is by no means assuaged when I walk into the showroom of a microcomputer shop, notorious

for its expert and inside knowledge of the Commodore beasts and am told: "The 64 handbook has got so many errors in it, sir, that were I to explain them all to you we would be here all day and I wouldn't end up selling so much as a pocket calculator."

These then, dear reader, are the facts. The Hewson household has spent the price of a decent fortnight in the Algarve on the purchase of a wondrous

machine which will either revolutionize its lifestyle in a manner resembling the impact of the invention of penicillin on guerrilla warfare, or permanent and dusty monument to impulsive buyers everywhere.

I am well aware that, once mastered, Brunnhilde will file my accounts, store my work, and simplify my business activities no end, and I am gracious enough to place the blame for her inability to perform any of these functions at the moment wholly upon my own ignorance.

My first successful piece of printed work through her reads: "This is a machine and she is here to work". The fact that it took me seven goes to get it right is neither here or there. I shall ignore those overheard taunts from the kitchen - "He's got a new toy..." For one thing, the gizmo is so new that there seem to be no decent games for it.

No, my girl. This thing's between you, me and the bank manager. Learning computers is just like learning simple French, they say. So the future, ici we come.

(To be continued)

James Martin's latest book is out

Now for the next 10 years



Martin: how to get rich

The tall gangling figure of computing writer-lecturer James Martin is to commercial data processing what J.R. Ewing is to the rest of Dallas: a goad (and one reputed to have a JR sized income).

And sometimes he reads like Dallas sounds. Though English, his books are written in business-technology Americana (he has spent around 20 years there, most of them with IBM). It may sometimes be an ugly staccato language, but at least it is usually clear, and as his knowledge of computer technology and operations is encyclopaedic, his books have sold well into seven figures.

The result is that the lectures he gives on his world-wide circuit are usually packed. He tells with amusement of the one day lecture he gave in Australia where the audience was so large that they had to use the Sydney Opera House.

All this means that in conventional computing circles, a new work from Martin is an eagerly awaited event - and not least by some Japanese and Taiwanese publishers who like to produce pirate editions.

An *Information Systems Manifesto* is not so much a book as a well structured and sustained onslaught. (It is entitled "A Report". You can charge more for reports than for books).

The onslaught is on the (claimed) crisis in DP operations, which comes from the widespread use of obsolete methodologies and techniques to generate systems which will then run on the latest hardware, systems which then do not do what management expects if, by the time they are up and running, management has not forgotten what it originally asked for and expected.

His contention is that the crisis is caused by user inability to get what they want up and running when they want it. In most well managed corporations the demand for new applications is rising faster than DP can supply them.

The imbalance between demand and supply is becoming worse, and applications backlogs are growing. Two to four years is the norm, though he quotes one American bank executive as saying that the bank's backlog was seven years.

But this is the documented backlog and only reveals part of the story. There is also an invisible backlog as users, knowing they are not going to have their applications up in any reasonable time scale, cease to demand them.

And that invisible backlog is often larger than the one that has been documented. Thus a recent US study sought to measure the invisible backlog in

typical Fortune 500 corporations, and concluded that among those studied it averaged 168 per cent. If the bank was one of them, it would put its true backlog at 19 years.

The backlog is not simply about more of the same. Applications break down into four groups. There are the routine monitoring standard-report applications, the backbone of traditional DP, exception reporting about predefined exception conditions; enquiry systems which enable users to change reports as and when they wish; and analysis systems to support decision making.

If one is to consider them in terms of what commercial DP installations do, we find that there are more of the first than the second, more of the second than of the third, and more of the third than of the fourth, with probably a difference between one and four of - at least - one order of magnitude.

But what do managements want? Same study: six times as many analysis systems (group four), three times as many enquiry (group three) and twice as many exception (group two) systems as are currently being installed.

How are these to be obtained? Martin's case is that they are not going to happen by relying on a centralized DP applications programming department, hand programming methods, standard languages such as COBOL, and standard methodologies - or the lack of them, the very methods which

are leading to the ever increasing backlog.

Structured programming may help, but not enough. The real route lies in the use of techniques about which most non DP managements are not yet aware. As he puts it in his half page summary "Manifesto for Senior Management".

"Understand that a revolution is taking place in DP, but that many DP departments are not moving fast enough to the higher productivity techniques."

He is not talking about flooding the organization with micros. Among the techniques and methodologies he describes and discusses are programmer-less applications-programming languages which with their near plain language characteristics can make it easy for users to write their own applications, and the information centre concept, a tool of managerial control.

Then there are techniques for data management, for much corporate data is often not as well organized as it could be. You can ask the question, but you cannot get the answer. And of course prototyping, trying it out before you build the entire software system.

Martin's last section deals with the technology of the next ten years. It is very different. Its preoccupation is with how to get rich.

He writes about those who have already become rich from computing related technologies getting together and discussing those who have also "made it" in terms made popular by the film *10*, except that the numbers, exponents of ten, deal with wealth.

There are many thousands of 6's, several hundred 7's, a healthy handful of 8's, and at least one 9."

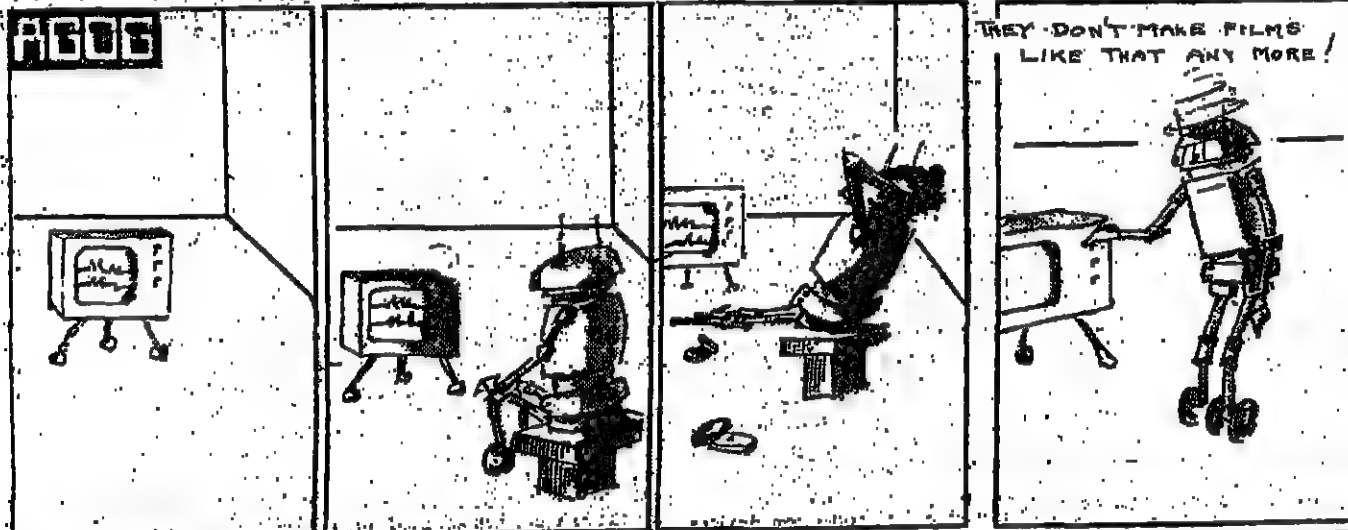
The best information available is that Martin is among the seven. So how can one join him and them? He gives a long list of likely or necessary changes in the technology and its application, almost a list of opportunities to make money, even if of course here in polite society it should be referred to as "generating wealth".

Martin's last non specialist book *The Wired Nation* was on the famous list of books that Sir Keith Joseph recommended senior civil servants should read. (The *New Statesman* in one of my favourite misprints called it "The Wild Nation").

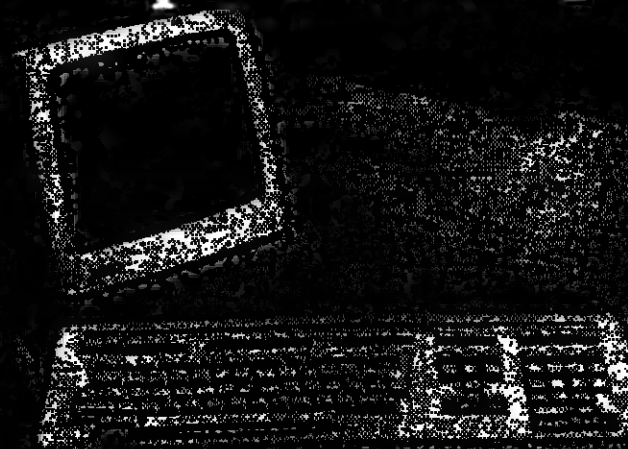
I do not know whether Sir Keith will like this one, but Mrs Thatcher certainly would. On the more normal scale of 10, I suspect she would probably give it an eight or a nine.

Rex Malik

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CRICKET

Giving a priority to talks on four-day game smacks of panic

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

The Test and County Cricket Board's "Structure Working Party" meets for the third and last time at Lord's today, to decide upon their final recommendations to be presented to the full board at the next meeting. Although without executive authority of their own, the working party's views will carry much weight.

Under the chairmanship of F G Mann, it comprises Chris Balderson (chairman of the Cricketers' Association), B Coleman (whose speciality is the marketing side of the game), Colin Cowdrey, Ray Illingworth, P B H May (chairman of selectors), C S Rhodes (chairman of Lancashire), A C Smith (secretary of Warwickshire and also a selector), F M Turner (secretary of Leicestershire), A C Watkinson (chairman of Essex), Bob Willis, the England captain, and Robin Marlar, the secretary of the Cricket Writers' Club. Two common or garden county members might have made a useful contribution, as too, might an umpire. But the party as a whole is widely experienced.

Their brief is to produce a structure to raise the standard of first-class and Test cricket in this country, and at the same time to maintain and improve the viability of county cricket clubs. The 17 first-class counties have all sent a questionnaire. Some came back with detailed proposals of their own.

Spinner with an odd twist

By Alan Gibson

TAUNTON: Somerset (2 pts) beat Sussex by 39 runs.

Taunton must have been the only dry place in Somerset yesterday morning, or (to judge by news from other grounds) in the country. It was pelted down at High Middleton, so much that I wondered whether it was worth making the journey, and all the way from Bath to Creech St Michael rain was spattering the train windows.

However, Taunton, though surrounded by grim banks of clouds, survived, even with spots of pleasing sunshine, until lunch. By then, 36 overs had been bowled, and Sussex had scored 113 for four. As on Saturday, Somerset had made 251 in their 55 overs, it was inadequate.

The pitch was not difficult, but the outfield was slow. It turned out to be a pitch for the spinners rather than quicks and Marks once again showed how odd he is in this limited-over game. I say "odd" because he does not bowl with a flat trajectory and more than normal speed, which is the supposed recipe for spinners in these circumstances. He gives the ball air. It is accurate, they do it, accurate manipulation, because every vigorous young batsman feels he ought to be hitting him for a boundary every ball. His innocent face, though he has unsuccessfully attempted to disguise it with a beard, increases the illusion.

Batsmen will continue to get out against Marks until they realise he is not so green as he is cabbage looking. There was a case for him to have been dropped for 18 in his continuous 11 overs, for giving him the Gold Award, but Roy Marshall reasonably decided that Richards' mighty innings on Saturday was the major contribution.

In the afternoon, the lock with the weather did hold. Twice there were interruptions, though they were minimised by the zeal of the



Marks: accuracy plus temptation.

ground staff, who handled their clumsy covers with speed and skill. At one point Eric Hill, down as ever, announced that the Taunton ground staff had reached a record, the first to make a 100 covers and uncoverings in May. I asked my old friend and schoolfellow if I could quote this statistic, but he glared at me, and said: "No, I'm not having you pinching me bon-mot."

The afternoon proceeded as expected, Somerset's progress broken only by the showers. Wells and Le Roux made brave attempts, but there was never any chance of Sussex catching up.

There was no time for larking, either for some of the Combined Universities players wanting to bat. Heads were buried in Lamb's economy and the like.

Unfortunately, their reading of Underwood, or for that matter, the quicker bowlers, was less sound. Ellis, who played for Middlesex last season, was an exception. In the 50 minutes he managed to bowl, he bowled with life, with assurance. Kent began on the defensive in the knowledge that Universities best hope of winning lay in achieving a quicker run rate, should, as was likely, there would be prolonged rain.

Dilly, though, removed boyd-moss their best ball, having in the end bowled Curtis with a quick one that

nipped back. The rain then duly arrived, and in the second over on Saturday, five runs an over against the likes of Dilly and Underwood is asking a lot of any side, especially of students. If it was not quite men against boys it was not far from it.

Play began on time, which has to be worthy of mention at the moment. It was a two-winner day for anyone within range of the Fens - though that worried Kent, fearing rain and an abandonment, more than undergraduates. Putting down the Cam takes second place to studies this month.

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ground staff, who handled their clumsy covers with speed and skill. At one point Eric Hill, down as ever, announced that the Taunton ground staff had reached a record, the first to make a 100 covers and uncoverings in May. I asked my old friend and schoolfellow if I could quote this statistic, but he glared at me, and said: "No, I'm not having you pinching me bon-mot."

The afternoon proceeded as expected, Somerset's progress broken only by the showers. Wells and Le Roux made brave attempts, but there was never any chance of Sussex catching up.

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TENNIS

Spanish veterans with zest of youth

From Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Dusseldorf

Jose Higueras, wearing the inevitable beard and the inevitable green warm-up suit, sat contentedly on a dressing room bench above the court. He was the oldest member of the Spanish team, 34, but just won both singles in straight sets against Australia to regain the World Tennis Cup.

Every time a Spanish player was defeated by Higueras and Orantes in singles, the last time they won the cup, in 1978, their opponents in the final were also Australia - then represented by Phillip Dent and John Newcombe. In those days, Orantes was the Spanish string stringer. Higueras the second. Now the order of precedence is reversed, but they are still in business and still winning.

In eight days Orantes has beaten three men who were ranked above him. When asked if he found this event rejuvenating, Orantes grinned. "Well, I was trying like a young man, anyway. We knew we had a chance to win both singles yesterday (in the semi-final with the United States) and today, so we were trying very hard. It was tense out there. I wanted to win as quickly as possible."

Higueras beat Mark Edmondson 6-2, 6-4 and Orantes beat Patrick Cash, more than 16 years his junior, by 6-3, 6-2. The pattern was the same in both matches. The big, strong Australians invested in what is known in the trade as "the heavy suit" because their opponents were better at the controlled, subtle manoeuvres of clay-court tennis. Edmondson and Cash mixed it up. They were prepared to sweat it out from the baseline until they had a chance to get to the net, and put the ball away - or watch and listen, in frustration, as a passing shot or lob buzzed out of reach. They were lions in chains.

The Yannick Noah scandal lingers on. He did not turn up for his scheduled match on Saturday and has been fined £3,870.

Low blow for Pirow

By Richard Eaton

Brent Pirow, a tall young man from Pretoria, with an elegant, rolled-back hairdo, was the first of the South African players to return to the scene of his success in the tournament sponsored by Period yesterday to find himself against the first seed in the first round.

Not surprisingly, the champion was the event's first loser, beaten in a game that would have caused nervous small craft to founder too had been a victory for Pirow. He was a 6-2, 6-4, was Bruce Forwood, an American of impetuous temperament, steady ground strokes, and a blue sweater and blue peaked cap that would have been out of place on the South.

Pirow was often as angry as Forwood was calm. The balls blew into the road, three replacements soon wandered away and everything seemed to be over. In 12 minutes, Pirow had lost his match, with a double-fault.

Afterwards it was not the draw that Pirow criticized - ATP

regulations are that seedings must be according to points, not to playing style, but the men's singles at Lee-on-Solent last year, returned to the scene of his success in the tournament sponsored by Period yesterday to find himself against the first seed in the first round.

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Orantes: "trying like a young man"

Moreover, his personal appearance has been a success. He was 1.85m, the supervisor representing the Men's International Professional Tennis Council, has reported the facts by telex to the MPTC administrator in New York Mike Davis, the executive director of the Association of Tennis Professionals, has flown to the same location with documentary evidence - newspaper cuttings and a copy of Noah's explanation.

Noah (who has the right of appeal) faces the possibility of suspension for anything between 21 days and a year, and a fine up to £12,903. The ATP could impose an additional fine of £6,450 and suspension of membership.

The tournament director, Horst Klosterkemper, implied resignation when he said here on Monday that he was no longer prepared to put his personal reputation at stake in this event unless Noah was adequately punished. He thought a maximum one and six months might "hurt" Noah. It seems reasonable to suggest that players like Noah are more easily replaced than tournament directors like Mr Klosterkemper.

Noah also becomes an object of scorn among many of his own kind. There has even been talk of boycotting tournaments he enters. What a mess this gentle, quiet man has made of his career. All this is particularly regrettable because, as Nielsen said yesterday after his first experience of the event: "This is a major tournament. I'm very impressed with the organization, the crowds, the setting, the importance of the doubles, and the enthusiasm of the audience, as the French put it. There is an atmosphere that you only get at the better tournament. Everyone feels good," everyone except Noah.

Not present on May 20 will be vital players in the political game of poker: Horst Dastler, Chairman of Sports manufacturers Adidas said to have interests in two of the major marketing agencies, Rofa (television) and ISL of Lacarne (advertising); Emilio Ascaraga, owner of Televisa, Mexico's sole TV network; and Deutscher of Japan, the largest advertising agency in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Linking the two sets of poker players is the FIFA vice-president Guillermo Canedo of Mexico, business partners of Ascaraga.

Yesterday Dr Kissinger gave an exclusive interview to this newspaper in which he clarified many aspects of the USSR application.

Question: Why did the US cause interest you sufficiently to become involved?

Answer: I've always been a soccer enthusiast and I take every opportunity when I'm in Europe to go to games. I've been interested ever since I was a boy and I've been honorary chairman of the North American Soccer League (NASL). Bringing the World Cup here would put the sport on top here.

Q: In what ways is your involvement most likely to assist the US bid?

A: I think I've been helpful in getting together a group of senior American executives - soccer, business, and political figures - to show this is not primarily a commercial exercise of an individual soccer team. My utility is to show there's broad support in business and political community and that we can put on a first-class operation.

Q: Do you see the possibility of any fresh development by FIFA prior to May 20?

A: We would accept an inspection committee at any time, at very short notice and we're willing to answer any questions, but we do not want our case to be pre-judged.

Q: What would be the value to football of the US hosting the cup?

A: It would make soccer a major sport in the US and would mean Americans travelling abroad would take an enormous interest in the game. It would be tremendous for the game if it could become a major sport in a country as

large as the US.

Q: How good a goalkeeper were you, and would you ever have liked to play serious soccer?

A: Those were high scoring days when I was a goalkeeper. In those days they played the 3-3-5 system. I played in goal till I broke my hand and ended-up as a fullback after playing for a while as a forward. My enthusiasm far exceeded my skill, but I was a fanatic. My father thought I should go to the opera, I thought I should go to soccer, I used to sneak away.

Q: Do you believe the US can stage a tournament living up to the game's best traditions?

A: Absolutely. No question. Now that I have all the top people involved it would be a point of honour for all of us to ensure that it was a success. I wouldn't be involved if I weren't convinced of that.

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Exclusive interview by David Miller

Why Kissinger believes US is ready and able to strengthen World Cup

New York. The executive committee of FIFA, the soccer body which controls its game, is immune to external appeal or judgment, will give the United States soccer federation 30 minutes in Stockholm on May 20 to plead its case for consideration as 1986 World Cup hosts.

Leading the US delegation, which will be permitted five speakers, five observers and no audio-visual aids, will be the former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, a football enthusiast since childhood. Dr Kissinger has placed his experience and reputation behind the US bid because, as he says, "soccer is a vital experience for the overwhelming majority of mankind" and it would greatly benefit international soccer as well as the game in the US to establish it here as a major sport.

Dr Kissinger goes to Stockholm not to seek a confrontation with FIFA but an objective hearing. There, he will meet the key figures in control of the World Cup's destiny: Brazilian president Jose Sarney, the Organising Committee chairman Hermann Neuberger of West Germany, general secretary Joseph Blatter and vice-president Harry Cavan (Northern Ireland) and Doctor Frankl (Italy). All indications are that FIFA are determined to award the finals to Mexico as replacement to Colombia and that Dr Kissinger's diplomatic expertise will be fully stretched to reverse this probability.

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What we are asking for is the opportunity to present a full case. There may have been misunderstandings originally, at a time when I was not involved. It was thought it was a starting point and that we could provide fuller answers when FIFA came here. Now we have a letter from the White House about legal requirement and the support of governors of each state involved.

Q: It seems to me one of two things should now happen: either FIFA should give us the World Cup on the basis of our written presentation, or they should delay their decision until they can send a team to look us over. We think we deserve a visit.

Q: What is the least you hope for from the Stockholm meeting?

A: That FIFA decide they will look over the situation at our grounds. After all, even in Mexico they found a number of stadium unsatisfactory and I doubt if they would find that here.

Q: What will be the main thrust of the US case?

A: The letter from the White House, our corporate financial backing, the quality of our stadium and the changes that will easily be made; our advertising facilities; and the importance of showing the international game here in a way it has not been seen previously.

Q: Are there any grounds for believing FIFA may already have signed contracts with Mexico which make the situation irretrievable?

A: I would hate to believe that. It would be totally against their own rules.

Q: From your experience as an observer, at several World Cups, how would you balance the importance of football between playing in a traditional football country, and the greater financial advantage which there might be here?

A: My assessment is that we'd have very large crowds for the semi-final and final and good crowds for the second round. The first round is problematic, as it has been since it was expanded to 24 teams. There were not big crowds for the first round in Spain. In

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A further assistant required for this expanding department. The practice covers a wide range of commercial matters. Applicants should be of an outgoing personality, fully experienced in all aspects of High Court procedure, and capable of handling with responsibility a heavy workload.

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Solicitor aged about 30. 3 to 4 years qualified with ability to take responsibility for a wide range of company/commercial matters: would particularly suit a person with experience in a large or medium sized firm wanting to participate fully in future growth.

Applications with full C.V. in confidence to:

Box 0127 H The Times

Solicitors in Conveyancing, Litigation, Probates, Wills & Trusts

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Dunford Ford are a lively, innovative practice currently employing some 20 professional staff in five offices in E. Sussex and Kent. Specialisation; a participative, open organisational style; and a highly positive attitude towards client relationships have been major factors in their success.

These openings are primarily for newly qualified (or shortly to be qualified) solicitors - although those with more experience would also be considered. The successful candidates will have every opportunity of career growth in a practice which already has firm plans for further expansion.

Relocation assistance would be available.

Please write - in confidence - to Colin Bexon ref. A. 17366.

These appointments are open to men and women.

MSL LEGAL

Management Selection Limited
International Management Consultants
52 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0AW

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

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Young solicitor with, perhaps, one year's experience since admission, for international construction company.

The work is varied and ranges from litigation to contract drafting. Appreciation of international concepts important, especially with the laws of contract. Usual liaison with firms in other parts of the world, and some international travel.

Initiative, adaptability, and a sense of humour are important personal qualities. The working language is English (with strong City of London connections), but a willingness to attempt to speak and understand French is, obviously, essential to working and living in Paris.

Please send CV with snapshot photograph to the Group Corporate Secretary, Sogex Management International SARL, 15-25 B'd de l'Amiral Bruix, 75782 Paris, Cedex 16 France.

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We are a young partnership using modern technology in a long established but now rapidly expanding practice extending from outer London through Herts to the Chilterns. As a result of expansion we require:

- (1) AT HARROW a SOLICITOR or LEGAL EXECUTIVE to deal with conveyancing of all kinds and/or probate and related matters.
- (2) AT HARROW and CHESHAM a SOLICITOR to undertake divorce, general litigation and crime with some advocacy.
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Our Policy is to recruit only personnel of the highest calibre. We set high standards and expect hard work but in return offer appropriate rewards. If you consider that you measure up to our standards and would be interested in joining us write with C.V. specifying for which position you wish to be considered to N. White, 12 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex. HA1 1JF.

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with 1-2 years post admission experience to join a very busy and expanding conveyancing department. The successful applicant will be capable of handling a substantial volume of domestic matters, with minimum supervision and will be seeking to progress to a commercial conveyancing position. Salary negotiable in the region £8,000 p.a. to £10,000 p.a. Please write with CV to:

Mr R H GLICK
HOWARD KENNEDY & ROSS
22 HARCOURT HOUSE
10 GAVENDISH SQUARE
LONDON W1M 0AP

City to £25,000 Commercial Conveyancing Early Partnership

Our client is a medium-sized progressive and profitable practice with a powerful client-base in the building industry. Growth and planned development now dictate the need for a broadly-skilled commercial conveyancer with considerable business acumen to join their general commercial team.

The ideal candidate will be aged 28-30, a graduate who, having qualified with a city firm, will by now have at least 2 years specialist postqualification experience in commercial conveyancing and acquired presence, credibility and maturity.

The rewards will be equal to the very real challenge. Candidates should apply in writing, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae and quoting reference 2065T to Mrs. Indira Brown, Corporate Resourcing Group, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Telephone: 01-222 5555.

Corporate Resourcing Group

Management Consultants - Executive Search

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CITY £20-30,000

A major US bank with an established presence in London seeks a solicitor having at least five years post qualified experience. Professional background should ideally include working for a firm of solicitors representing an international bank.

A highly motivated person with a knowledge of some of the following: Euro dollar lending, commercial and securities law, takeovers/mergers and general domestic commercial practice, is sought.

This solicitor will be responsible for all local matters affecting UK operations, drafting and negotiating finance documentation and dealing with outside counsel. It is intended that there will be an initial attachment to the US head office for about six months and some overseas travel thereafter is likely.

In addition to the salary as indicated above, the usual fringe benefits including car and subsidised mortgage are offered. To apply for the above appointment, send your curriculum vitae or telephone/write for an application form quoting reference A/B/C/65 to Reuter Simkin, 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE, Tel: 01-405 6852.

Reuter Simkin



2nd ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF LONDON Comptroller and City Solicitor's Office Police Prosecutions

Salary £15,435 (Maximum)

Applications are invited from Solicitors or Barristers to head a section dealing with prosecutions principally on behalf of the City of London Police. For further information about the post telephone William Innes, Assistant City Solicitor, on 01-606-3030 Ext 2697 or telephone Ext 2696 for an application form and job description. The closing date for the receipt of completed application form is 27th May, 1983. Comptroller and City Solicitor, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ.

HONG KONG LITIGATION SOLICITOR

Baker & McKenzie requires Assistant Solicitor to work in expanding Litigation Department of its Hong Kong office. The successful applicant should have served at least 1-2 years after articles in the Litigation Department of a City firm and should have the ability to cope without constant supervision with a wide range of commercial problems. Excellent salary and other benefits with good long term prospects. Interviews in London on 18th or 19th May. Please write giving full particulars including earliest starting date to Baker & McKenzie (Ref MJFP), Aldwych House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4JP.

SOLICITOR

A major Housebuilding Company in Milton Keynes require a Solicitor to set up a legal department within its group of companies with the prospect of subsequently forming a private practice. Salary £15,000 p.a. Please contact:-

Mr J R Upson,
Managing Director,
Erosin Group of Companies,
130 High Street,
Newport Pagnell MK16 8EH

BARRISTER'S SENIOR CLERK

required by well-established Common Law Chambers in the Temple. A well paid appointment for the right person. Apply with information on previous administrative responsibilities and experience (if any) in the legal world. Replies please by 17th May, 1983. Box No 0788H The Times

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

requires a

LAWYER

for its Professional Practice Department

to assist in the work of reviewing and monitoring standards of practice and conduct and in the work of the Arbitrations Section.

Candidates should be aged between 25 and 35 years and have had some previous administrative experience. Salary in the region of £7,300 - £8,000 p.a. according to age and experience.

Applications with C.V. (and daytime telephone number) to The Personnel Officer, R.I.C.S., 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD Telephone: 01-222 7000 Ext. 212

LAWYER/ECONOMIST

BELGIUM

European professional organisation in the financial sector seeks a Lawyer/Economist for its International Secretariat in Brussels.

The position requires at least two years' professional experience after graduation in law, an understanding of economic and financial affairs. English speaking with good spoken and written French, plus initiative and the ability to express ideas clearly and concisely.

Assistance will be provided with relocation expenses where appropriate and salary will be commensurate with age and experience.

If you are interested please write to: FBCE, 166 Avenue de Tervuren, Box 5, 1150 Brussels, Belgium.

BANKING AND COMMERCIAL LAW

Established ten partner firm of Holborn solicitors seeks lawyer, experienced in banking and commerce. Early partnership for applicants of suitable calibre.

Merger with existing practice specialising in banking and commercial law would also be considered.

Please write in confidence with full details to: A. G. Hartmann, 126 High Holborn, London WC1V 5DP.

LEGAL ADVISER

The London office of a multinational energy corporation based in the United States seeks an energetic and enthusiastic Solicitor or Barrister to advise in-house on the day to day problems associated with oil trading and tanker chartering and to conduct a substantial volume of commercial and shipping litigation both in London and abroad.

Some administrative work, possibly leading to Company Secretaryship, will also be involved. Previous oil company experience would be a considerable asset as would fluency in at least one west European language.

Initial remuneration will be around £15,000 per annum plus company benefits dependent on the ability and experience of the successful applicant.

Please apply in writing with clear concise curriculum vitae no later than 27th May to: COASTAL STATES PETROLEUM (UK) LIMITED 34 GROSVENOR STREET, LONDON W1X 9FG

Attention: MRS MARY FARQUHARSON

LIVERPOOL

Able and energetic solicitor with at least 3 years experience required for challenging and responsible work in a predominantly commercial practice. Work will be wide ranging and interesting. Salary negotiable according to experience. Please apply to Box 0126 H

Young Litigation Solicitor

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Applicants should submit detailed C.V. to A Pendlebury, Clarke Willmott and Clarke, 6 Hammet Street, Taunton

HOLBORN SOLICITORS

Middle sized seek able energetic Solicitor to head their litigation department. Varied and interesting civil litigation.

Partnership available

(Please reply in writing to Box 0121H The Times)

Soviet families evacuated from Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Fearing a new outbreak of serious fighting in and around Beirut, the Soviet embassy in the city yesterday sent home more than 140 of its diplomats' wives and children on a special flight to Moscow. Watched by United States Marines who guard the international airport here, the families left Beirut on an Aeroflot jet a few hours after sectarian fighting had resumed in the Chouf foothills two miles from the Lebanese capital.

The phalangist "Voice of Lebanon" radio station claimed yesterday that Russian journalists in Beirut had been detained for questioning by Lebanese security authorities but this was categorically denied by a Soviet correspondent who lives in the city. Another Russian, who is close to the Soviet diplomatic community in Beirut, said that the embassy had decided to send families home because of the security situation. "When it is calm again, they will return", he said.

Nevertheless, the departure of the Russian families rather naturally provoked rumours in Beirut that the Soviet Union had knowledge of some new military threat to Lebanon, connected perhaps to Syria's rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement.

The United States has told the Lebanese Government that they too will have to exert diplomatic pressure on the Syrians to leave Lebanon and Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, is believed to have spent much of his hour with President

Gemayel on Sunday making this very point.

The Lebanese are somewhat nonplussed by this - Beirut newspapers have dubbed it the "Shultz bomb" - since they had hoped Saudi pressure would be sufficient to bring about a Syrian military withdrawal.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia spent some hours with President Assad of Syria yesterday afternoon in an attempt to persuade him to pull his army out of Lebanon along the lines of the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement but the Syrian leader seems to be in no hurry to comply.

With Israeli troops still under attack by guerrillas in southern Lebanon and with the Lebanese war ever more unpopular with the Israeli public, President Assad is in no mood, it seems, to oblige Mr Shultz, or the Lebanese, by withdrawing his men.

If the Americans are embarrassed by the failure of withdrawal talks, Damascus will shed no tears.

● **DAMASCUS:** - The PLO has rejected a US-sponsored draft accord for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, a senior PLO official said yesterday, Reuters reports.

Mr Abdel-Mohsen Abu Maizer, spokesman for the PLO executive committee, told reporters that a meeting of the committee chaired by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, had decided to reject and condemn the agreement after conducting a thorough study of it.

Israeli warning, page 6

Wife defends Heidemann

Continued from page 1

was not the kind of magazine to try to justify Nazi deeds.

● **FRANKFURT:** Herr Heidemann, 51, was not at home yesterday, but his wife, Gina, clearly distraught, vehemently denied in a telephone interview that he had pocketed any of the money. AP reports. Frau Heidemann insisted that Stern's three chief editors - two resigned on Saturday due to blame.

"My husband has been an employee of Stern for 32 years and he obtained the diaries under the direction of the Stern chief editors," she said.

"He delivered a few samples to Stern and they assured him

that they would check them for authenticity. My husband told me that after they checked them, they asked him to obtain the rest of them.

"Then they hired several specialists to check the diaries."

● **Money back:** A spokesman for Times Newspapers said in London last night that Stern had agreed voluntarily to return the £130,000 already paid for the serialization rights of the diaries. The News Corporation, the parent company of Times Newspapers, had agreed to pay £250,000 for the rights for Britain and the Commonwealth.



Public success: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor during a curtain call last night.

Critics pan Burton and Taylor

From Christopher Thomas, New York

The New York critics dipped their pens in vitriol yesterday and produced one of the finest examples of just how vicious they can be. The subject of their ire was *Private Lives*, a revival of Noel Coward's dancing comedy, which opened on Broadway on Sunday with all the fanfare and razzamatazz appropriate to the two leading players, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

The doomsayers had been predicting for weeks that the duo would be disastrous, and the critics yesterday pronounced the prophecy correct. Burton gets a generous mention here and there but it is faint praise indeed. Miss Taylor, however, is mauled.

The *Daily News* said of her: "The wit, the frothiness, the sense of style - all completely elude the matronly star, whose amplitude, topped by a fluffy honey hairdo, makes her resemble some grand ship under full sail."

The *New York Times* tore into both stars so heartlessly that it would have killed off any normal Broadway show at birth. But *Private Lives* is a sell-out, and you can hardly get to the Lunt-Fontaine theatre at night because of all the sightseers and policemen.

Probably the last time Broadway was captivated so much was 1964 when Taylor and Burton were still married and still destined to get divorced, get married, and get divorced.

That was when she would pick him up each night after his acclaimed performance in *Hamlet* at the Lunt-Fontaine.

Sunday night's opening was a glittering affair, of course, at a party in the Tavern on the Green in Central Park the gentlemen wore white ties and tails and many of the ladies donned tiaras.

As for the reviews, *The New York Times* gets the award for bitchiness. It reckons that Burton looks bored out of his mind and "doesn't even seem to be an actor." Miss Taylor, it concludes, "lists about, her hands fluttering idly like a wind-up doll in need of a new mainspring."

Mauling or not, there is not a ticket to be had for any performance of the show, which ends on July 17.

34 killed in Mexican church blast

Mexico City (AFP) - Thirty-four people were killed and 750 injured when fireworks stocked for a local festival exploded in the town of Tapachula during Sunday night.

At least 33lb of gunpowder went off in the blast, according to some reports. Other sources said some 55lb of explosives had been stacked in cardboard boxes against an outside wall of the church, without sufficient safety precautions.

Eyewitnesses spoke of a chain reaction when the explosion occurred, shortly after 9pm local time, as Mass drew to a close. They said some bodies were blown to pieces, and limbs were found as far as 45 yards from the site of the blast.

Rescue workers and residents were sifting through the rubble for survivors. A number of children were reported missing in the confusion.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

In a mood of subdued, businesslike hysteria

The fateful date having been announced from No 10 a quarter of an hour before the start of the day's sitting, the house yesterday began the process of curtailing the present Parliament. The mood was thus one of subdued, businesslike hysteria.

The chamber filled up at the end of an extremely routine Question Time on the subject of energy - the sort of subject which only attracts those tedious, younger Tory backbenchers in good suits who possess a lot of the stuff. As we ran through various announcements about what would happen to the business remaining in his Parliament, everyone was smiling and laughing. This placed an especial strain on those whose careers were about to be ended.

Mrs Thatcher remained at home across the road. This was just as well. She had caused enough inconvenience for one day. We shall be hearing from her at Question Time today and every day for the next four weeks, and possibly for much of the late twentieth century.

Mr Foot stumped in, deploying his funny walk. He sat down on the Opposition front bench, smiled, appeared confident, and said nothing. Keeping to that strategy is his best hope of winning the election. Unfortunately, the pressures of modern campaigning will dictate that he will have to say something.

That is when his troubles will start.

Mr Edward Heath glowered throughout from his customary place, prior to his nationwide election glower. It is assumed that, with whatever reservations, he will in the campaign be glowering on the side of the Conservatives. But that seat of his below the gangway is the fate reserved for Conservative Prime Ministers who unwisely call early elections.

So Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, who was at the dispatch box announcing the tidying up of the Parliament's remaining business, averted his gaze from the terrible apparition only a few feet away.

Like Mr Foot, Mr Heath remained silent. He did a lot of studying of his order paper, his passage to the chamber having been unimpeded by the House of Windsor.

What thoughts were coursing through the rejected statesman's head? Put not thy trust in the Central Office computer projection, could well be the greatest lesson that he has drawn from life. Amid the banner across the floor yesterday, he alone did not smile. His campaign was off to a tremendous start.

On balance, Labour members were more brash and confident of victory than the Tories. This confirmed the general tendency of the opinion polls to the effect that Labour is going to lose.

Decline of standards

The Speaker read out a list of Acts which had received the Royal Assent. "The Running Away Act", interpolated Mr Joseph Ashton, the Labour member for Basslegh, half way through the list. Members found particular symbolism in the name of each Act intoned by the Speaker. "The Level Crossings Act", he cried! Ho, ho, ho, responded the House. "The Nuclear Material (Offences) Act." Ha, ha, ha. Clearly a reference to the member for Stretford, Mr Winston Churchill.

"The Mental Health Act," too, hee, hee, laughed the House. For, by now, restraints and standards had begun to decline. "Dog Licences (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill," shouted the Speaker, in a bravura finale that brought him well-deserved cheers.

During his tidying up, Mr Biffen referred to "the announcement" of the election. Mr William Hamilton, the member for Central Fife, rose on a point of order to say that announcements of elections should be made in the House.

"They want to keep it a secret," said the Labour frontbencher Mr Eric Heffer, amiably. Eventually, Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Aid, killed all further hilarity by opening a debate on "hunger in the world" with the conversation-stopping sentence: "I beg to move, Mr Speaker, that this House take note of European Document 4658/82."

After all this triviality, the House turned to the issues, and the chamber emptied.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh presents the 1983 Award of the Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion, Buckingham Palace, 10, attends Annual Court and lunch, Trinity House, London, 12; Chairs British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Council meeting, Buckingham Palace, 4; as Patron of the Air League, awards Air League Flying Scholarships and attends reception at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, EC1, 6.30; attends Royal Society

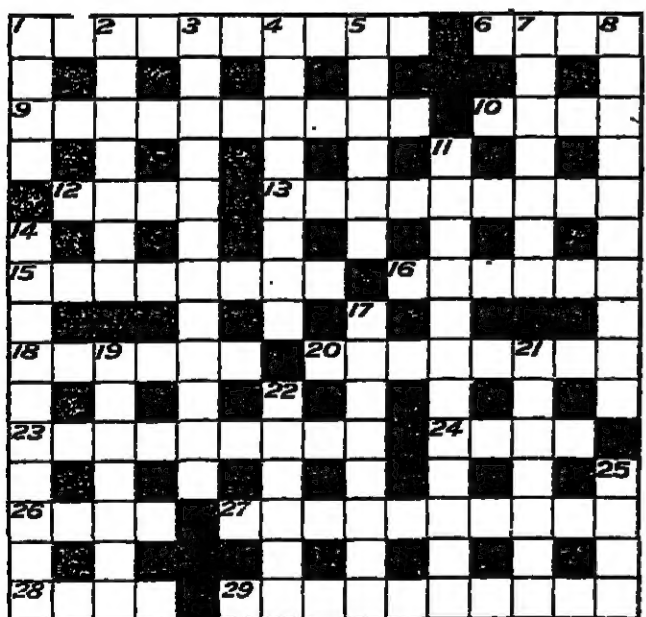
Club dinner, 6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, 8.15.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visits The Royal Anglian Regiment, Colchester, 11.30.

Princess Alexandra attends a performance of Claude Lelouch's film *Edith et Marcel*, at the Centre Charles Peguy, International Youth Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, 7.40.

Princess Alexandra opens the West of England and the Air League, awards Air League Flying Scholarships and attends reception at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, EC1, 6.30; attends Royal Society

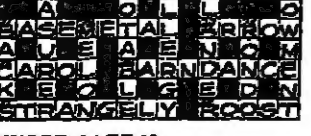
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,125



ACROSS

- 1 Heads seen here raised over points of safe concern (10).
- 2 This may close lid before clearing up? (4).
- 3 Would-be clever type, (Doctor of Markover has twice his money) (5, 5).
- 4 Going strangely pale, taking it in the dark (4).
- 5 Achilles, maybe, fished out of the river Acheron (4).
- 6 Champ's affliction even when sober (5, 4).
- 7 Poet William receives a sheep in class (8).
- 8 Parasite may be thrown up (6).
- 9 Take in turns to tear in pieces (6).
- 10 Regularly recurring description of a chemist's table (8).
- 11 Feast with ends of the seating along the wall (9).
- 12 Medal struck for service in the dining-room? (4).
- 13 Area besieged in Israel (4).
- 14 Launching pad for high fliers (10).
- 15 Dickensian father with bygone stable building (4).
- 16 Free diners, not necessarily baked (10).

- 3 Empty-headed, and inconsiderate (12).
- 4 School break for Hamlet perhaps, nothing less (4-4).
- 5 Other ranks rebuked for a blunder (6).
- 7 In that we find the means of control (7).
- 8 Former currency includes stamp for convenience (10).
- 9 Lack of nourishment (8).
- 10 Jumper goes over or under this (8-4).
- 11 BAOR coders deciphered *The Telegraph* (5-5).
- 12 Would Pan, growing up, become such a crackman? (8).
- 13 Fit activity for an unruly child (7).
- 14 Diamonds? They look snappy enough! (7).
- 15 Outside railway staff suffer from lack of nourishment (6).
- 16 One of those worn to improve one's looks (4).



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

New exhibitions

Paintings by Alexander Mann. Fine Art Society, 134 Blythwood Street, Glasgow. Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun. (from today until June 7).

Recent work by Kevin Harley and Andrew Holmes, and Hands-on from inside. Photographs by Vanley Burke. Hon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham. Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun. (both until June 4).

Eskimo Art: Traditional ivory, bone and antler sculptures. E. M. Flint Gallery, Museum and Art Gallery, Leichfield Street, Walsall. Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45; (until June 11).

Admiral Lord Nelson: paintings, drawings, engravings and sculptures of Nelson, his ships, battles, contemporaries and his ladies. Rye Art Gallery, Ockmans Lane, East Street, Rye, East Sussex. Tues to Sat 10.30 to 1 and 2.15 to 5, closed Mon (until July 1).

Landscape paintings by John Dennison Carter, Blake Gallery, Georges Lane, Crewkerne, Somerset. Tues to Sat 10 to 4, closed Sun and Mon; (until May 21).

Music

Concert by City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.

Organ recital by Graham Matthews. Sheffield Cathedral, 7.30.

Organ recital by Simon Lindley. Leeds Parish Church, 7.30.

Organ recital by Jennifer Bate. St George's Church, Beverly Gardens, Cultreath, Tyne and Wear, 7.30.

Concert by Leicester School of Music. Leicester Cathedral, 7.30.

Recital by Mark Walton (clannet) and Jessie Jones (flute). Chichester Cathedral, 1.10.

General

Cable and Satellite Television, Wembley Conference Centre, today and tomorrow 10 to 6, Thurs (last day) 10 to 4.30.

West of England Antiques Fair. Assembly Room, Bath. 11 to 7 today until Fri. Sat (last day) 11 to 9.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.88	1.88
Austria Sch	28.50	28.70
Belgium Fr	80.00	76.00
Canada \$	1.29	1.29
Denmark Kr	14.26	13.54
Finland Mk	8.94	8.44
France Fr	12.05	11.45
Germany DM	3.99	3.79
Greece Dr	133.50	125.50
Hongkong \$	11.21	10.63
Ireland P	1.20	1.10
Italy Lira	2360.00	2250.00
Japan Yen	385.00	365.00
Netherlands Gld	4.49	4.27
Norway Kr	11.62	11.02
Portugal Esc	163.00	148.00
South Africa Rd	2.00	1.86
Spain Ptas	217.00	206.00
Sweden Kr	12.27	11.65
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.18
USA \$	1.63	1.57
Vogostavia Dnr	129.00	122.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 327.9.

London: The FT Index closed 4.2 at 690.2.

TV top ten

- National top ten television programmes in the week ending May 7:
- 1 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 14.00pm
- 2 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 14.00pm
- 3 Crossroads (Tue) Central, 12.30pm
- 4 The Whistling Duet (Wed) Central, 11.00pm
- 5 Family Fortunes, Central, 11.00pm
- 6 Crossroads (Wed) Central, 11.00pm
- 7 Carry On Laughing, Thames, 11.15pm
- 8 Riverside Farm (Tue) Yorkshire, 10.30pm
- 9 2-2-1 Yorkshire, 10.30pm
- 10 BBC 1
- 1 Time of Your Life, 11.10pm
- 2 That's Life, 11.00pm
- 3 The Young and the Rubidious, 10.55pm
- 4 News and Weather (Sat) 10.55pm
- 5 House Calls, 10.10pm
- 6 Fame, 9.55pm
- 7 Monty Python's Flying Circus, 9.55pm
- 8 Max Boyce, 9.00pm
- 9 Odd One Out, 8.30pm
- 10 North Sea Hike, 8.00pm
- BBC 2
- 1 World Snooker (Thurs 21.00) 7.15pm
- 2 World Snooker (Wed 22.00) 6.50pm
- 3 World Snooker (Wed 22.00) 6.50pm
- 4 Call My Bluff, 5.50pm
- 5 World Snooker (Wed 18.35) 5.70pm
- 6 World Snooker (Mon 22.25) 5.65pm
- 7 World Snooker (Sat 23.15) 5.65pm
- 8 World Snooker Final (Sun 20.20) 5.55pm
- 9 BBC 4
- 1 Angel, 2.55pm
- 2 The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, 1.55pm
- 3 The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, 1.55pm
- 4 Harry Cooper's Golden Belt, 1.70pm
- 5 Soap, 1.70pm
- 6 Brookside (Wed) 1.55pm
- 7 The Muppet Show, 1.40pm
- 8 The Muppet Show, 1.40pm
- 9 Bouquet of Barbed Wire, 1.40pm

94C

- In Welsh:
- 1 Snoccar (Fri) report BBC, 99.000
- 2 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 91.000
- 3 Y Byd Yn B Le (current affairs) HTV, 89.000
- 4 Snoccar (Thurs) report BBC, 77.000
- 5 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 61.000
- In English:
- 1 At God's Children, 107.000
- 2 Six Million Dollar Man, 98.000
- 3 St Elsewhere, 97.000
- 4 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 91.000
- 5 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 91.000
- 6 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 91.000
- 7 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 91.000
- 8 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 91.000
- 9 Snoccar (Wed) report BBC, 91.000

Anniversaries

Births: James, 1st Viscount Bryce, statesman and historian (*The American Commonwealth*), Belfast, 1858; Gustav Stresemann, statesman, Nobel laureate for peace 1926, Berlin, 1878; Karl Barth, theologian, Basel, Switzerland, 1886; Deaths: Leonard Fuchs, botanist, Tübingen, Germany, 1966; Paul Revere, patriot and folk hero, Boston, Massachusetts, 1818; Thomas "Sloane" Jacobson, Confederate general, Guinea's Station, Virginia, 1863; Sir Henry Morton Stanley, explorer, London, 1904.

Roads

London and South-east: A406: North Circular Road (Hanger Lane): Northbound with induced at junction of Madley Road, A282: Dartford Tunnel northbound approach road: roadworks at Blue Star roundabout, M27. Westbound carriageway closed at Pottersbridge: E of junction 12, 9 am to 9 pm; diversion via A37.

Midlands and East Angles: M1: Lane closures at junction 19 (M6), M50: Roadworks between junctions 1 and 4 (Tewkesbury to Ross-on-Wye). M5: Lane closures between junctions 13 and 14 (Stroud and Thornbury).

North: A1(M): Closed southbound at Aycliffe intersection, Durham. A19: Lane closures on Thirsk-pass, Yorks.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures between junctions 15 and 16 (Swindon and Chippenham); diversions. M5: Lane closures between junctions 13 and 14 (Stroud and Thornbury).

Scotland: High Street, Edinburgh: closed between St Mary's Street and John Knox House; diversions. M8: New Canal Street off ramp now open in Glasgow (junction 16).

Ferry dispute

Because of a French seaman's dispute, the crossings from Dover to Dunkirk have been cancelled today, and Dover/Calais and Newhaven/Dieppe services are disrupted. For recorded message about calling times call Dover (0304) 21755 or Newhaven (07912) 3166.

P and O Southampton/Le Havre sailings are cancelled for tonight and tomorrow night.

The papers

"So she's going while the going's good," says the *Daily Mirror*. "She is going now because she expects to win - and win she might, but deserve to she won't."

"Never before has there been so stark a difference between the visions of Britain offered by the two main political parties," says the *Daily Mail*.

"June 4 will be a crossroads for the people of this country," says the *Daily Star*. "Never have the issues been so momentous: never have politicians from the two major parties come before us with such radically different programmes - and never before has there been such a strong alternative to both of them."

The election campaign will be a bitter struggle waged across a vast ideological gap, says the *Sun*. "This is not the moderate Labour Party of Atlee or even Wilson - it has been penetrated at all levels by sinister Marxist forces; and the Tories have escaped from the pink mould of Ted Heath" and returned under Mrs Thatcher to sturdy old principles of self-reliance and national pride."

"We stand four-square and one hundred per cent behind Mrs Thatcher," the *Daily Express* tells its readers. "The bizarre mixture of black-mouthed trends and hard-mouthed militants who now masquerade under the Labour banner do not deserve your vote."

Weather forecast

An area of low pressure will remain slow-moving over the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, East Angles, Midlands, E. central N. NE England: Showers, some heavy, perhaps with thunder; wind mainly S, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

SE, central S, SW, NW England, Channel Islands, Wales: Showers, heavy and perhaps with thunder; wind SW, moderate to fresh, locally strong; max temp 9 to 12C (48 to 54F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Showers, heavy and perhaps with thunder; wind E to SE, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Showers, frequent, outbreaks of rain; wind moderate to fresh, locally strong; max temp 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Continuing unsettled with temperatures returning to near normal.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind S, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW, fresh or strong, occasionally gale; sea rough. S. George's Bank: Wind SW, strong to gale, occasionally severe gale; sea rough or very rough. Irish Sea: Wind S, strong to gale, occasionally severe gale; sea rough or very rough.

Sun rises: 5.18 am. Sun sets: 8.37 pm.

Moon rises: 4.43 am. Moon sets: 5.43 pm.

New moon: May 12.

Lighting-up time

London 9.07 pm to 4.48 am
Bristol 9.17 pm to 4.56 am
Edinburgh 9.24 pm to 4.48 am
Manchester 9.24 pm to 4.48 am
Penzance 9.24 pm to 4.48 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; L, rain; S, sun.

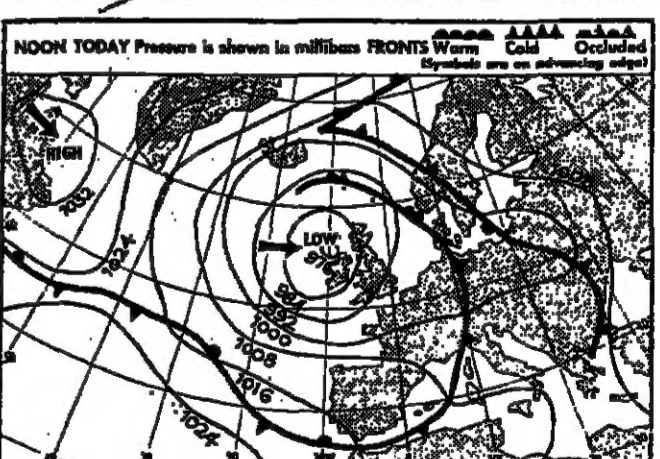
	C	F	C	F	
Belfast	6	43	Guernsey	11	52
Birmingham	10	50	Jersey	10	50
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52
Bristol	11	52	London	11	52

London

Yesterday's Temp. - max 6 am to 8 pm, 15C (59F); min 9 pm to 5 am, 7C (45F). Wind: S, 49 km/h (30 mph). Rain: 24 mm (0.9 in). Fog: 6 pm, 985 mbars, falling. 1,000 mbars = 29.93 in.

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Poole, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Llandudno, 7C (45F). Wind: S, 49 km/h (30 mph). Rain: 24 mm (0.9 in). Fog: 6 pm, 985 mbars, falling. 1,000 mbars = 29.93 in.



High tide

Location	High tide	Low tide
London Bridge	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10
Aberdeen	12.40	1.10

Around Britain

Location	High tide	Low tide
Guernsey	12.40	1.10
Jersey	12.40	1.10
Guernsey	12.40	1.10
Jersey	12.40	1.10
Guernsey	12.40	1.10
Jersey	12.40	1.10
Guernsey	12.40	1.10
Jersey	12.40	1.10
Guernsey	12.40	1.10
Jersey	12.40	1.10

Abroad

Location	High tide	Low tide
Madrid	12.40	1.10
Paris	12.40	1.10
London	12.40	1.10
Madrid	12.40	1.10
Paris	12.40	1.10
London	12.40	1.10
Madrid	12.40	1.10
Paris	12.40	1.10
London	12.40	1.10
Madrid	12.40	1.10